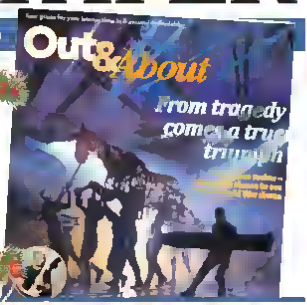
THE OXFORD PAPER

Thursday, December 21, 2017 No.71 theoxfordpaper.co.uk 60p

Wishing all our readers and advertisers a very merry Christmas

Weekly leisure guide for in & around Oxford



A Christmas cracker for city centre as footfall increases

By Samantha McGregor

OXFORD has seen an increase of tens of thousands of visitors giving businesses a much needed Christmas boost

Latest figures from December 4 to 10, show the number of people coming into Oxford city centre was up by 13 per cent compared to the same period last year which translates to 86,908 more visitors to Cornmarket, Queen Street and elsewhere in the city centre.

Oxford City Council records footfall in the centre and says Christmas shoppers have helped push figures up.

Council leader Bob Price puts the increased footfall down to the opening of the Westgate centre and the popular Christmas market in Broad Street, putting Oxford back on the shopping destination map

He also said more stores were moving into empty city centre units vacated after shops moved to the Westgate centre

A total of 720,605 people visited the city centre between December 4 and 10 and the busiest day was the Saturday with 145 514 visitors.

Overall the council said footfall for the year to date is up by 4.1 per cent on the previous year

Cllr Price said, "As expected, the opening of the Westgate centre has given a massive boost to the number of people coming into the city and the monitoring data shows clearly that

this increase has been felt widely across the city centre in the run up to Christmas

"The Broad Street Christmas Market has been very popular again."

Cllr Price said the empty shops in the city centre amounted to about six per cent, compared with the current UK average of 12 per cent

He said "The empty shop units created by businesses moving to Westgate are filling up fast and from our discussions with landlords it seems that very few will remain empty for long.

"Demand for retail space in the city centre is strong and we hope that more independent traders will be attracted by the increased availability of shop units in prime locations."

Footfall counters are in Queen Street, Cornmarket and St George's Place, with Cornmarket the busiest location.

Wrapping up for run

Picture: Barry Cornelius

ELVES, boxes in wrapping paper, Spiderman and even a bin full of recycling took part in Oxfordshire's Christmas fun run last week.

The event on December 13 involved 300 Oxford city and Oxfordshire County Council workers running around Christ Church Meadow in remarkable outfits

Julian Richardson, a county council engineer, organised the 2.25mile race and won with a time of 12 minutes 17 seconds

The unique event has been hosted by the councils since 1979

Another county council employee Sue Cozens was the fastest woman running it in 17 minutes and 7 seconds.

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Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Ahovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids) The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The survey also found that hearing impaired people are more likely to be teased or harassed because they don t wear a hearing aid compared to those that do

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

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Should I have my hearing checked?

Keith Donaghy R.H.A.D., F.S.H.A.A has the answers.

When should i have my hearing checked?

Just like eyes and teeth it is recommended that hearing is checked once a year or certainly if someone thinks that their hearing is diminishing. All hearing tests and consultations are free at Keith Donaghy Hearingcare.

How do I detect a change in my hearing?

It is usually difficult because the deterioration is often gradual, so hearing needs to be checked regularly by a professional. Friends and relatives may tell you that you are not hearing properly or you may find that the television etc needs to be turned up for you to hear it.

When do I need to use a hearing aid?

If you have a significant loss in your hearing then a new digital hearing aid system will bring your hearing back to as near normal as possible. There are many digital systems available on the market and generally speaking the more sophisticated the system the more expensive it is.

How much do hearing aids cost?

When investing in a hearing aid system you are not just purchasing hearing aids but also the after care package so it is important to consider what the standard of help and advice is available when you start wearing your new hearing aids. At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare prices start from £980 00 for the latest digital technology hearing aids which includes the initial hearing test, fitting and complete aftercare package Because Keith Donaghy is local patients rarely wait more than a few days before they can see him.

How long do hearing aids last?

All hearing aids come with a 2 year manufacturers guarantee. Providing that the hearing aid system is cleaned and serviced regularly it will last for 6 to 8 years However many people change their system after 3 to 4 years usually because they want to use the latest technology available

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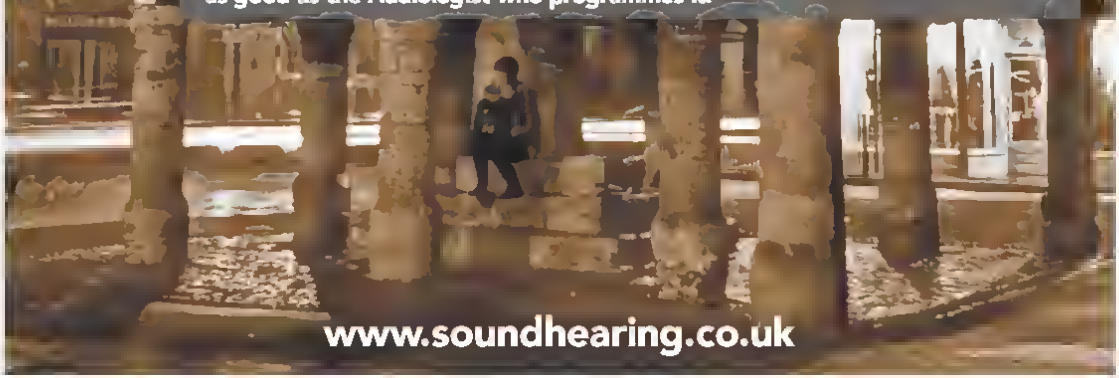

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More sport inside: Ice hockey Stars slaughter Lions with huge win | U's Midfielder on course for early return | Rugby Wheatley on a high

A good point ahead of busy festive period for U's

By George Welch

Rochdale 0
Oxford United 0
Attendance: 2,568

PEP Clotet believes his play-off chasing Oxford United side's goalless draw at struggling Rochdale on Saturday was a point gained, not two dropped.

The United boss cited the freezing conditions and Rochdale's deceiving home form for a positive away result as the U's gained a point on the League One play-off pack.

And Clotet isn't wrong.

Although the Spaniard agreed that the match should have gone ahead, the freezing pitch made it difficult for United's natural possession-based game to flow as temperatures struck freezing.

And Dale, despite languishing the wrong side of the dotted line, have a solid home record having taken points from Oxford's promotion rivals Peterborough United and Scunthorpe United.

Clotet said, "It's a useful point here, especially in the conditions we were facing. Rochdale are a strong team to play at their place. They have had some very good results here and we knew it was going to be very difficult.

"The team never made an excuse of the poor conditions of the pitch and tried to make the best of it.

"The fact we got a clean sheet and, despite not being able to score, we take the point."

It was a Baltic afternoon in the north west and the two keepers probably welcomed shots on goal just to warm up.

The palms of U's stopper Simon Eastwood were certainly thawed when he pushed away a fierce drive and a free kick from Callum Camps.

And the visiting custodian's heroics continued into the second half, pulling off a terrific stop to deny Joe Bunney.

Even when Eastwood was beaten, defender Mike Williamson was on hand to protect the Oxford goal.

At the other end, Josh Lillis had to perform his own fine piece of goal keeping to keep out a low Wes Thomas drive.

Neither side could force a winner to send their fans home happy – and probably warmer.

"For us it's positive – the team put in a good display, understood the game and worked very hard for it," Clotet said.

United host table-toppers Wigan Athletic on Saturday before playing away at Gillingham on Boxing Day.

The U's face another away day on December 30 at Bradford City before welcoming 2018 in at home to MK Dons on New Year's Day.

Doing the ugly things well paid off on a difficult freezing pitch

NOT for the first time this season defender Mike Williamson praised Oxford United's fighting spirit after picking up a goalless draw at Rochdale on Saturday.

The centre half led the defensive line as United weathered plenty of pressure from the home side on a freezing pitch at Spotland.

Williamson and his fellow defenders had plenty to do in a game that was near impossible for pretty football.

The 34-year-old said, "We've shown this season that we have no lack of attacking ability and options and we have some great offensive players.

"This was a challenge for the team but we executed it really well with our shape and reliance. We created some good moments. It was just a difficult pitch so it wasn't meant to be.

"But it was all about the ugly things today [Saturday] and being diligent which we did well."

Former Newcastle United and Wolverhampton Wanderers man Williamson was also full of praise for the U's fans who trekked to the north west.

He said, "It was a phenomenal effort. It's a difficult place for the players to come to never mind the supporters.

"Credit to them as they got us through some tough moments in the game. We had to defend and do the ugly things well and they showed fantastic support."

Williamson, whose appearance at Dale meant he played back-to-back league games for the first time since September, has played 14 games since joining United in July.

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Winter driving reminder after spate of crashes

By George Welch

THE county s fire service has stressed the importance of driving carefully in wintery conditions after an increase in the number of crashes

Drivers were urged by Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service at the start of the month to take extra care on the roads.

However since Wednesday last week, multiple casualties were lucky to escape serious injury according to the fire service following four serious crashes on the county s roads

An elderly man suffered minor injuries and a woman was cut free from her car after a two-vehicle crash in East Hendred near the new housing development and the junction of White Road on Wednesday last week.

Fire crews freed the woman by removing the driver's side and roof of the car

The cars collided shortly after 5 30pm on the A417

This was before a busy Friday for the emergency services on a day in which a car ploughed into a lorry on the A40, a vehicle flipped on the M40 and another two vehicle crash, this time near Shellingford.

Perhaps the luckiest escape was when a driver and passenger escaped the mangled wreckage of their car after smashing into a parked lorry on the A40 near Oxford.

Firefighters said the people involved were 'fortunate' not to sustain serious injuries following the crash which happened shortly before 11 30am.

Incident commander crew manager Mike Milling added "This could well have been a life-threatening and life-changing road traffic incident."

A driver managed to escape the wreckage of their car without the aid of the emergency services at a similar time after driving it off the M40 and flipping onto its roof.

Thames Valley Police are still investigating the cause of the crash, which happened at 11 30am on Friday

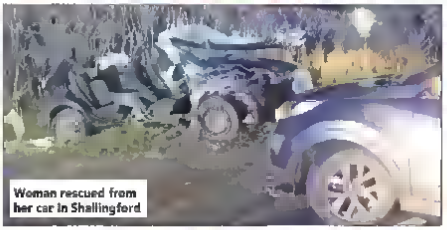
At about 6pm that evening a seriously injured woman was rescued from her car after colliding with another vehicle on the B4508 near Shellingford.

Fire crews used hydraulic rescue equipment to remove the roof and doors of the car to enable the casualty to be rescued.

Watch manager Jon Walker added. "Please pay attention when you are out and about on the road this festive season do not use anything that will cause a distraction and drive to the road and weather conditions."

For winter driving tips, visit 365alive.co.uk/ems/

Two vehicle crash in East Hendred


Woman rescued from her car in Shallingford

The driver and passenger escaped this mangled wreckage on the A40

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Primary schools climb up tables

TEACHERS, pupils and parents in Oxfordshire are celebrating after the county surged up the national primary school league tables

Across the county 61 per cent of pupils achieved the government's benchmark standard up nine per cent from 2016

Tables published by the Department for Education last week show the percentage of Year 6 pupils who met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in the 2016/17 academic year

The Ridgeway C of E Primary School in Childrey led the way with 100 per cent of its pupils meeting the expected standard.

A handful of schools recorded an impressive 90+ per cent, including Kingham (97 per cent), Goring CE (92), Shiplake CE (92), Bletchingdon CE (90) and Longfields in Bicester (90)

But results varied widely – Long Wittenham CE recorded 13 per cent while Stephen Freeman Community in Didcot and Orchard Meadow Oxford, saw 14 per cent.

Oxfordshire recorded 61 per cent of pupils meeting the expected standard.

This is a significant improvement on last year, the first year of major changes to assessments, when the county had a record of 52 per cent.

Nationally the number of 11 year-olds meeting the standard rose from 53 per cent.

Pupils are deemed to have met the expected standard if they achieve a scaled score of 100 or more in their reading and maths tests, and their teacher assesses them as "working at the expected standard" or better in writing.

A total of 202 out of 232, or 87 per cent of Oxfordshire state and special schools, for which data is available achieved 100+ for both their reading and maths

In another boost for the education authority nine per cent of pupils are achieving at a higher standard' also in line with the national average.

However data for Oxfordshire shows that the county s primary schools are below average for writing and maths

School standards minister Nick Gibb said the results showed "pupils are now leaving primary school better prepared for the rigours of secondary school and for future success in their education".

Bus driver admits hitting a pedestrian

A WALLINGFORD bus driver has admitted dangerous driving after his double-decker mounted the curb and smashed into a pedestrian in Reading.

Cheikh Daouda Senghor, 40 from St Johns Road in Wallingford, appeared at Reading Magistrates Court on Thursday last week.

He told the court he put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake before knocking down Simon Smith in Gun Street

CCTV footage from the incident on June 24 went viral after it appeared to show Mr Smith unmedatively walking into a nearby bar after the number 17 bus ploughed into his back

My Smith escaped the ordeal with minor injuries but the court was told that he is still off work nearly six months on.

The court heard a number of passengers who were interviewed after the crash had claimed that Senghor was driving too fast.

Alexander Dos Santos, defending, said his client "sends his apologies to the victim"

District Judge Davinder Lacchar decided the incident was too serious to be dealt with at magistrates' court and referred Senghor to be sentenced at Reading Crown Court at a later date

Festive market is firm favourite scooping public award

THE sound of choirs singing carols, colourful decorations brightening wooden stalls and the aroma of mulled wine and cinnamon drifting in the air – the Oxford Christmas Market has spread its festive magic across the city centre yet again.

More than 50 traders converged on Broad Street in the city centre to ply their festive wares for 11 days from December 7 to 17.

As well as market organisers celebrating the eighth staging of the ever-popular Christmas event, the annual festivities have been voted as Oxfordshire's favourite event at this year's In Oxford Awards.

Event organiser Nicole Rahimi said she was "over the moon" that the Christmas market was voted favourite by the public.

She said: "The award makes all the hard work of the past eight years worthwhile. It's wonderful to see how many people look forward to it and return to the market each year.

"It's become a Christmas tradition, which is cherished by many and that's exactly what I wanted to create."

Dee Sinclair, the city council's board member for culture and communities, added: "It is wonderful to see that the Oxford Christmas Market has been voted the favourite event by the public.

"We are very proud of Nicole who is supported by our staff. It is a wonderful way to get into the festive spirit."

The In Oxford Awards, in their third year, were decided by the public and readers of Living in Oxford Magazine.

The awards celebrate Oxfordshire's "most beloved establishments and the categories covered included dining, nightlife, shopping, and theatre.

Shoppers have voted the market in Broad Street as their favourite event

InBrief

Woman's bag stolen

A WOMAN was dragged to the ground as a man in a mask made off with her bag.

The woman was walking from Cowley Road to Reliance Way at around 5pm on December 14 when she was approached from behind by a man who grabbed her bag forcefully, pulling her to the ground. He then ran off in the direction of Cowley Road.

The stolen bag contained a mobile phone, cash and food.

The offender is described as around 5ft 7ins tall and wore a duffle coat.

If you can help call 101.

Christmas lunch

THE East Oxford Community Association is hosting a Christmas lunch from midday to 3pm on Christmas Day.

The event at Princes Street is open to families, people on their own, the homeless and anyone who would like to come along.

The event is free but donations are welcome. To book a place and discuss dietary needs, contact 0750 183 7753 or eocaprincess@gmail.com.

Walk off excess

WALK off some of that over-eating from Christmas and join Oxford Preservation Trust as it invites walkers to try out routes over some of its land on Boxing Day.

They have put together a series of walks to "rejuvenate people after all the Christmas indulgences".

Visit tinyurl.com/ybe3yll6

Plan to have 'shark house' listed

By Eva Astreinidou

A 7.5metre shark crashing head-first into the roof tiles of a three-bedroom house could become subject to special status as a protected heritage asset.

The quirky shark house, which has attracted several tourists to New Street in Headington, could be listed as a protected building.

Its owner, journalist and broadcaster Bill Heine, commissioned the sculpture more than 30 years ago.

He won an appeal against Oxford City Council who tried to have it taken down on grounds of safety and on the ground that it had not given planning permission for the shark.

Refusing to back down, Mr Heine appealed to the then Secretary of State for the Environment Michael Heseltine who came out in favour of the shark in 1992.

The fibre glass shark, created by sculptor John Buckley was created as a protest against the American bombing of Libya, and was unveiled on the 41st anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb in Nagasaki.

An application for it to be listed on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register will now go to the city council for consideration, with a decision expected by council heritage officers in the summer.

Headington councillor Ruth Wilkinson, who is campaigning for the building to be listed, said: "We were all shocked that such an iconic landmark had no protection in planning terms.

"A group has formed to get it listed on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register as soon as possible. We also want to complete an application to Historic England for national listing but that will take a while longer. Apparently there is already a listing for Guy the Gorilla, so why not the Headington Shark?"

Mr Heine, 72, now lives in Waterstock.

The radio presenter owned the house until 2016 when his son Magnus Hansen-Heine then decided to buy it to ensure it stays as is.

Speaking to the Guardian in March, he said: "I had no intention of buying property – least of all in Oxford, but dad had remortgaged the house in 2007 just before the first leg of the financial crash hit – and the bank was threatening to repossess the property. It looked increasingly likely that the shark would be "tidied up" so the property could be sold off as a regular terraced house. This much-loved piece of art might be destroyed by another set of bureaucrats unable to deal with something that wouldn't fit a standardised form.

"I couldn't allow that to happen."

In November, Mr Heine was diagnosed with leukaemia and told by doctors he had 18 months to live.

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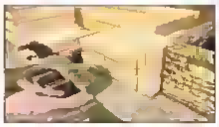
Leather goods firm's tonne of Christmas gifts

AN Oxford-based business specialising in hand-crafted leather goods is expecting to ship almost a tonne of Christmas goods through Heathrow this month.



Pampeano took part in the airport's 12 Exporters of Christmas social media campaign which highlights individual stories of SMEs across the UK that rely on air freight to export British Christmas essentials.

The Littlemore company typically ships 920 kilograms of its leather pieces through Heathrow over the Christmas period.

Founder Jennifer Brown said: "As our product sells faster than we can make it, we have to bring it in by air freight not sea freight and as the main cargo hub it all passes through Heathrow both on the way in, and then again for non-EU exports."

Salmon and dried flowers are among the record volumes of Christmas cargo expected to fly via Heathrow to the rest of the world over the festive season.

Santa will be dropping by at the King's Centre in Osney Mead but needs help with his transport

Minibus needed to aid food bank Christmas meal

OXFORD Food Bank is at full capacity for volunteers at its Christmas Day lunch in Osney Mead but is still looking for help with transport.

The charity would like to hear from anyone who can lend the food bank the use of a 16-seater minibus.

Following the success of last year's event, the charity will be cooking another three course Christmas lunch for around 500 as it bids to reduce food waste and food poverty within the community.

Free transport, food and entertainment will be provided by the 100 volunteers from 12.30pm until 4pm in the King's Centre, Osney Mead, on Christmas Day.

The community celebration is open to everyone, including families struggling to cope with the cost of Christmas, people who might be on their own, or anybody who wants to help tackle food waste.

Those interested in helping can email christmas@oxfordfoodbank.org or visit www.oxfordfoodbank.org for more information.

InBrief

Bag snatch bid

A CCTV image has been released after a woman was pushed to the ground when a thief tried to snatch her handbag in East Oxford.

The victim was getting off the number 16 bus on October 4, at about 11.10pm at the junction of Cowley Road and St Nicholas Road.

When she was walking along the road a man appeared in front of her, pushing her to the ground and attempting to grab her handbag.

The woman injured her head when she was pushed over but held on to her bag.

Police have released an image of a man they believe witnessed the incident and may be able to help with the investigation.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference 43170344613 if you know the man or have any information.

Bin collection days

BIN collection days in Oxford will be a day later during Christmas week.

Visit tinyurl.com/yaojeocw to find your normal collection day and which colour household you are.

Normal collections will resume week beginning January 1.

Garden waste collections, bulky collections and bin deliveries will be suspended from December 25 to January 7 and resume on the 8th.

Hotel given approval amid concerns over safety at LGBTQ pub

By Owen Hughes

MEMBERS of Oxford's LGBTQ community fear a vital city centre safe-space could soon disappear with the opening of a 90-room hotel next to the Westgate shopping centre.

A number of objections to the Premier Inn were made by residents of nearby Tennyson Lodge and Paradise Square over concerns about noise pollution, the height of the building restricting privacy and the hotel's close proximity to a green public open space.

But one resident was particularly concerned that the three five and six storey Premier Inn could detrimentally affect the LGBTQ character of the area.

David Simons, a former employee of Oxford's full time gay friendly venue The Jolly Farmers objected to the plans for the hotel because he was "concerned that the local pubs will no longer be a safe space for LGBTQ people".

He said: "A hotel in close proximity to the Jolly Farmers pub is going to mean that the pub is more filled with straight/cis tourists which undermine the safe space that the pub provides.

"A large number of non-LGBTQ people in a space makes it difficult for people to be themselves for fear of standing out or fear of rebuke."

However Oxford Pride has welcomed the redevelopment of the city centre, which they say is being done "in a sympathetic and thoughtful manner".

Paul McGinn, chair of Oxford Pride, said: "Without doubt such development like the Westgate is helping to create new opportunities for employment and socialising, for the entire community.

"The Jolly Farmers is the only remaining LGBT+ pub which still remains an important focus for the local LGBT+ community but others are always welcomed at the pub."

On the prospect of a Premier Inn opening next door to the pub he added: "There is already a Premier Inn located in Manchester's gay village which has been welcomed.

"Hotel companies are frequently cited as good LGBT+ employers."

The office block opposite the Westgate, formerly occupied by accountancy firm Critchleys, will be demolished and the car free development, offering 90 rooms and a ground-floor restaurant, will be built in its place.

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Driver's lucky escape after rail bridge crash

A DRIVER had a lucky escape after his car crashed onto railway tracks and landed upside down.

It is believed the car "careered off the road" and down an embankment in Hill Road ending up on its roof on the tracks at Chinnor Railway Station on Thursday last week.

The driver was not badly injured and luckily no train was due.

No passenger trains were running last Friday at the heritage railway, but works trains were operating on the line in connection with the Princes Risborough extension.

Danny Woodward, chairman of the line, said, "Our Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway Incident Team arrived on site very quickly – the guys are all either existing or retired senior railway managers – and they immediately set in motion what needed to happen.

"The Office of Rail & Road were informed and we have had the excellent cooperation of the emergency services and Oxfordshire County Council highways department."

A crane lifted the vehicle debris out of the way and repairs were made to the track and signalling equipment.

Increase in number of sexual abuse calls

By Eva Astreinidou

A CHILDREN'S charity has revealed there has been an increase in the amount of people getting in touch over concerns a child is being sexually abused.

NSPCC announced that over the last two years its helpline referred 83 calls and emails to local agencies in Oxfordshire.

There were also a further 70 contacts where helpline staff gave advice about sexual abuse against young people.

Nationally, the charity says it has seen an increase of 31 per cent in referrals over the last year, estimating that one in 20 children have experienced sexual abuse.

One caller who phoned the NSPCC helpline said: "I am concerned that a young girl in the neighbourhood might be at risk of sexual abuse by men who visit the house on weekends. There is lots of drinking that goes on and mum doesn't seem to be too concerned about leaving her alone with them. Mum can be often heard shouting and swearing at the girl and I don't think she is fit to care for her."

A charity spokesperson said a child is sexually abused when they are forced or persuaded to take part in sexual activities, which doesn't have to be physical contact and can happen online.

Now, the charity is calling for a UK government-commissioned, nationwide study on child abuse and neglect so they can understand the true scale of this problem.

John Cameron, head of helplines at the NSPCC, said, "It is deeply worrying that so many children are potentially being exposed to such a devastating experience but at the same time it also suggests that as a society we are much more alert to the risks and much more willing to come forward and share our concerns."

Off-duty PC due in court after assault on woman

A POLICE officer is due in court next month charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent after an incident in the summer.

Rebecca Barnett, 33, of Wood End, Banbury, was given a postal requisition to appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on January 15.

The charge is in connection with an assault on a 29-year-old woman in Addison Road, Banbury, on the evening of June 10.

PC Barnett, who was off duty at the time of the incident, is stationed in Banbury, but is currently suspended from duties while criminal proceedings are ongoing.

Fake cigarettes on sale in pubs

PUB-GOERS and clubbers should be on the look-out for criminals selling smuggled and fake cigarettes and tobacco.

Recent research in Banbury and Cowley revealed nearly half of illegal tobacco consumers target pubs and clubs as their main source of supply.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team warn that cheap illegal tobacco can be attractive but its availability helps children to start smoking, brings communities into contact with organised criminals and undermines legitimate businesses.

Cllr Judith Heathcoat, cabinet member for trading standards said, "Anyone involved in the sale of illegal tobacco commits a criminal offence which could result in a hefty fine and lengthy prison sentence."

Breeders warning

PEOPLE planning to add a cute puppy to the family should be aware of dishonest pet breeders and smugglers.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team is asking residents to do their homework and check for false or forged documents that can lead buyers to believe the puppies have been imported legally bred in the UK or are vaccinated.

For more information, visit https://tinyurl.com/y9q6bmzh.

Incinerator burns its one millionth tonne

By Samantha McGregor

A CONTROVERSIAL £200million incinerator has reached a milestone – it has burned one million tonnes of rubbish.

The waste plant at Ardley near Bicester opened in 2014, and since then the equivalent of 450 Olympic swimming pools worth of waste has been burned there.

Viridor which operates the site, says the waste has been converted into enough energy to power 36 000 homes.

But the project did not have an easy run. There was fierce local opposition and the matter ended up at a public inquiry and in the High Court.

Concerns were raised at the time about increases in traffic particularly more lorries, as waste is brought to the site from across Oxfordshire.

Now three years on the incinerator deals with 95 per cent of Oxfordshire's waste.

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for environment Yvonne Constance, said. "I am delighted to see the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility reach this milestone.

"The service this facility provides in converting waste produced by the residents of Oxfordshire into valuable electricity is excellent.

From left, Ardley ERF operations manager Jim Thompson, Viridor regional contracts manager Paul Rowland, Viridor's managing director of major contracts Chris Jonas, Oxfordshire County Council cabinet member for environment Yvonne Constance and Oxfordshire County Council strategic manager (waste and transport) Andrew Pau

"I look forward to continuing to work with Viridor to maximise even further the environmental benefits the ERF brings particularly energy generation."

Viridor's managing director of major contracts Chris Jonas said. "Viridor and Oxfordshire County Council share a goal of recycling first and taking the residual waste – that which cannot be recycled – and giving it a new purpose.

"In this case this was achieved by transforming the non recyclable waste into renewable energy and diverting more than 95 per cent from landfill."

Viridor has a 30-year contract to run the facility on behalf of the county council.

The council said the burner had to be built because the cost of landfill tax rose dramatically.

The firm has built an education centre at the site and people can book visits to see the incinerator behind the scenes.

InBrief

Youthquake top word

OXFORD Dictionaries has named 'youthquake' as word of the year after a five-fold increase in usage over the past 12 months.

The noun first emerged in 1965 and means 'a significant cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people'.

Casper Grathwohl, president of Oxford Dictionaries said, "At a time when our language is reflecting a deepening unrest and exhausted nerves, it is a rare political word that sounds a hopeful note.

"As the annus horribilis of 2017 draws to a close, a year which many of us feel we've barely survived, I think it's time for a word we can all rally behind."

Prime Minister Theresa May's snap election has been credited as having an impact on the word's usage spiking in June with a swing towards Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party from the youth vote.

Drink drive warning

OXFORDSHIRE'S fire service and Thames Valley Police have teamed up to launch a campaign urging road users not to drink and drive.

The authorities warned a single drink could put motorists over the limit and even small amounts of alcohol (or drugs) can affect vision, co-ordination and decision making skills.

Alcohol played a part in almost one in five deaths on county roads in 2016.

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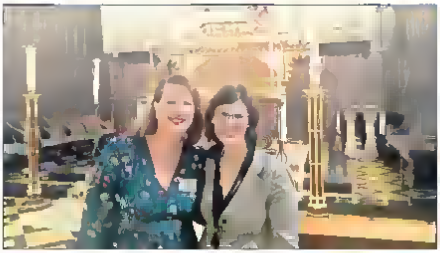

Victoria Prentis and Layla Moran were among the choir of MPs who sang in Westminster Abbey to highlight the plight of those in Syria

MPs sing for Syrian victims

TWO Oxfordshire MPs have been singing their support for a charity that helps victims of the Syrian conflict.

On Tuesday last week Oxford West & Abingdon MP Layla Moran joined forces with north Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis for the 2017 Singing for Syrians concert and helped raise £32 000

More than 600 people attended the event at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey organised by Mrs Prentis to raise money for the Hands Up Foundation which supports vulnerable people in Syria

For the first time Ms Moran joined the choir of 14 MPs for the event at which there were readings from actors including Samuel West Julie Christie and Martin Jarvis as well as a performance of Winter Wonderland by Alexander Armstrong

Mrs Prentis said: "Singing together is a simple yet effective way to raise money for those most in need in Syria.

"It is really important to me that the choir is cross party – it shows that we can all work together to help some of the world's most vulnerable people.

"They all sang beautifully and showed that the plight of the Syrian people has not been forgotten."

Ms Moran added "It was a privilege to sing in the choir at such a magical event.

"In my youth I went to Damascus when my family lived in Jordan.

"My heart breaks for the people whose lives have been affected by the conflict and so when Victoria told me about this event I jumped at the chance to do my little bit."

Sacks of love as presents given to sick children

Sleigh2Give delivers to hospital

By George Welch

JOY was spread across the faces of dozens of sick children as generous donors gave more gifts than ever as part of a Christmas present appeal

Ill youngsters at Oxford's Children's Hospital had their stay brightened by Didcot fundraising group Play2Give's Sleigh2Give festive campaign.

Donations, ranging from toys and baby items to arts and crafts DVDs, books and board games were handed out by Santa and his helping elves at the specialist hospital at the John Radcliffe in Headington.

The founder of our charity of the year 29-year-old Andy Baker who became his elf self for the event, reckons this year's drive topped last year's total of 3 000 gifts.

Andy, a former patient at the hospital said "Sleigh2Give 2017 has been our most successful and biggest yet – which is absolutely incredible

"Last year's appeal was phenomenal with 3 000 gifts totalling around £12 000

"But this year we have seen more supporters come on board and more sacks and boxes were delivered, via a convoy of five vehicles full to the brim to the children's hospital.

"I think it certainly tops last year – I am over the moon

"At home in the final few days we could hardly move in the hall or the lounge – it was like Elf Baker's grotto!" he added.

The group visited three of six wards, including the cancer (Kamran's) ward, the general (Bellhouse-Drayson) ward and the teenage (Melanie's) Ward.

P2G is particularly associated with the latter having raised £40 000 to name and fund the patient room.

Andy said: "Sleigh2Give like Play2Give, just keeps growing year on year – and this particular campaign at this time of year just melts people's hearts even more to dig so deep and donate so generously

"Again it was an inspiring, uplifting and heart-warming visit."

Andy added his thanks to all supporters, including appeal sponsors Go Green Taxis which also offered transportation to the hospital

Picture Phil Goodall

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Some of the gifts before being delivered to the wards Pictures. *Bradlee Moore*

and back and Didcot's Changing Lives which helps those in need which contributed £2,700 worth of presents.

P2G has raised more than £53 060 in 10 years for the children's hospital.

For more information and to donate to P2G visit tinyurl com/zksdlxx

£100m pound deal for retail centre approved

COUNCILLORS have backed proposals to buy Banbury s Castle Quay shopping centre in a deal totalling more than £100million.

The move comes after the current owner pulled out of a major regeneration of the shopping centre.

Aberdeen Standard Investments currently owns 85 per cent of the site, and Cherwell District Council owns 15 per cent.

Last year the investment firm was given planning permission to build a multi screen cinema, supermarket, hotel and restaurants along the canalside and former Spiceball Leisure Centre land.

Now the council has stepped in to rescue the project and says it will cost "in the region" of £60m to build the extension, while the "final bill will be over £100m."

Cherwell said it will fund the project through loans which will be repaid from rental income from the centre

Contracts are due to be exchanged this week, but the council said the cost of buying the shopping centre would remain "confidential at this stage."

Cllr Tony Ilott, Cherwell's lead member for financial management, said. "This is an historic day for Cherwell as it signifies the moment we seal our commitment to regenerating the centre of Banbury, starting with the precinct and CQ2

"Banbury has been without a town centre supermarket for 10 years and has been in desperate need of a multi-screen cinema long before that.

"With our intervention, we can guarantee that these plans come to fruition and use them to support our wider regeneration plans that will create a thriving town centre the people of Banbury deserve and can be proud of."

Cherwell said it would review the size of the planned and current units and was working with retail experts to revamp the shopping centre.

It is hoped work can start next summer with completion due in 2020

To date The Light cinema, Lidl, Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Nandos, Zizzis and Chiquitos have all reaffirmed their commitment to the scheme

Sean Woodcock, Labour group leader, said "Borrowing to invest in growth makes good economic sense

"That is what we see in the council's purchase of Castle Quay and development of Castle Quay Two

"But we made it plain, this is not a blank cheque If the project fails to deliver the revenue as promised, if shops remain empty and the town fails to regenerate, we will ask questions and be prepared to criticise."

Cherwell is also planning to regenerate Bolton Road, Tramway and canal side to increase the housing, retail and hospitality on offer

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Joiners craft woodwork award

A FAMILY RUN firm has won a prestigious industry award for its two-year long wood work restoration of an Edwardian house.

The 10 employees of Gelder Joinery Headington, won Woodworking Project of the Year at the British Woodworking Federation Awards last month for the restoration of the Oxfordshire home.

Gelder Joinery began work on the project in November 2015 and supplied the property with 32 windows 12 doors, three large garage door sets a summer house and a stable block.

The restoration required was the largest conservation project the company had worked on and had to put up marquees and other temporary structures in order to make their workspace large enough to complete the work.

Bryan Gelder managing director at Gelder Joinery said: "We worked with four timber merchants who in turn sourced much of the material from France. We're honoured to have won this award. All the team have played a part in this wonderful project and we are thrilled with the outcome so far."

Gelder Joinery will return to the project to complete two loggias two pergolas and a tennis pavilion with a decorative internally exposed roof.

The team from Gelder Joinery who picked up the award for woodworking project of the year for their restoration work

Tributes paid to college student

RUSKIN College has paid tribute to Nuno Cardoso, who died after suffering a cardiac arrest while in the back of a police van last month.

The inquest of the 25 year-old law student who died on November 24, was opened last week.

Mr Cardoso's college, Ruskin College in Headington, honoured the Oxford University student last week.

Principal Paul Di Felice told this newspaper "Nuno was a valued student of the College and was highly regarded by his fellow law students, law tutor and our college community.

"He is missed by all who knew him."

Officers arrested Mr Cardoso of Ruskin Hall Dunstan Road, Oxford, following an alleged assault.

Mr Cardoso was being transported to Abingdon police station when he fell ill. Officers pulled over at Redbridge Park & Ride in a bid to help the arrested man.

He was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital where he died later that day.

Results of a post mortem examination are yet to be established and more tests, including toxicology, are to be carried out.

The incident is under investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

The full inquest has been scheduled for September 5 next year.

>> For the latest news go to oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

No let up in battles over Brexit

By Eva Astreinidou

OPINION was split as Oxfordshire's politicians reacted to an eventful week in the House of Commons in which the Prime Minister was defeated over Brexit.

In a vote last week, 11 Tory rebels backed giving Parliament a much greater say in leaving the EU.

Put forward by the former attorney general Dominic Grieve, the amendment requires any Brexit deal to be approved by a separate Act of Parliament before it can be implemented.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran said: "This humiliating government defeat is a wake-up call for this Conservative-DUP government. Hundreds of local residents emailed me asking me to support this amendment to ensure MPs can have a say over a Brexit deal that will affect people's lives, jobs the economy and public services like our NHS for generations to come."

But aside from the "wake up call to the Tory party" the result has also revealed a tense relationship between Labour and the Lib Dems over an amendment on the single market.

A motion put forward by the Lib Dems, which would have prevented ministers from using regulation powers in the Withdrawal Bill to 'create barriers to the UK's continued membership of the single market, was voted down.

Oxford East and Labour MP Anneliese Dodds, who did not support the motion, said: "Above all, we have stressed that the government was wrong to rule out membership of the single market and that it should have kept all options open. Unfortunately the Lib Dem amendment mentioned would not have done this and that is why we did not support it."

But the Lib Dems criticised Ms Dodds for refusing to back a crucial amendment.

Oxford East Lib Dem spokesperson Conor McKenzie said: "Anneliese Dodds has shamefully failed to stand up for the jobs in Oxford East that depend on our trade with Europe.

"This is a betrayal of all the people in Oxford East who voted for her hoping they'd limit the damage caused by Brexit."

Ms Dodds said the Lib Dems' amendment would not have kept the UK in the single market as it did not "address any of the many serious flaws in the government's Withdrawal Bill."

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Warning after cigarette fire

PEOPLE are reminded to properly dispose of their cigarettes after a carelessly discarded one caused a house fire in Oxford.

Black smoke bellowed from the front door and flames raged from a first floor window of the Fernhill Road home last week.

The fire broke out at around 5.30pm on Tuesday last week and the residents swiftly evacuated the burning building after hearing the fire alarm.

Fire crews from Slade and Rewley Road fire stations extinguished the inferno and a large fan cleared the remaining smoke.

Incident commander crew manager Jason Clifford urged the public to safely discard their cigarettes using a suitable container and make sure they are fully extinguished.

He added that smoke alarms had helped alert people to the fire in time for an emergency evacuation.

Hotel plan for new tech park

A 101-bed Premier Inn hotel and Beefeater is planned near Oxford.

The hotel and restaurant could be built as part of £90million plans for an Oxford technology park opposite Oxford Airport in Kidlington.

The Premier Inn and 150-cover Beefeater restaurant could create 50 jobs if approved by the council in the new year.

The hotel and restaurant complex would be ready in early 2019 to accompany the new business hub.

David Williams, a partner at one of the site's marketing agents Bidwells, said: "It is important for a technology park to have a campus-style environment.

"A large proportion of the businesses coming to the park will need to accommodate colleagues and customers from overseas making the hotel a convenient and valuable asset."

The proposals for the hotel have been lodged with Cherwell District Council as a separate application to the development of the park itself.

The technology park is expected to create 4,000 jobs in the 440,000 sq ft development of hi-tech lab and office space.

Work on the development began in the summer and the first business units could be completed next year.

Cherwell District Council's planning committee approved the plans for the park in December 2015.

Fair way to raise funds for camp

FITZHARRY'S School in Abingdon truly embraced the festive season with four days of back-to-back Christmas fairs.

Year 7 pupils who were off last Monday because of the snow got right back into the swing of things by crafting a variety of Christmas goodies and gifts.

The youngsters took on the role of Santa's little helpers as part of the school's LEARN programme which encourages leadership, excellence, ambition, respect and no limits.

Headteacher Jonathan Bennett said: "Every Christmas the Year 7s plan and organise a Christmas fair, with parents and the rest of the school coming along to help raise money for a three-day camp at Youlbury in the summer.

"They make up their own stalls and always rise to the challenge."

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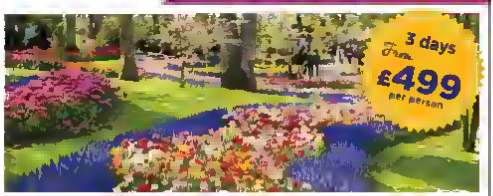

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ABTA

Concern healthcare can't meet development levels

By Samantha McGregor

A NEW report has highlighted concerns that health and care services are not keeping pace with development in Bicester

Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the county's independent health and social care watchdog, says the biggest concern among residents is for long waiting times for appointments at GP surgeries and lack of NHS dentists

It comes after researchers from Healthwatch spoke to around 450 people during a two-week period in the autumn, at markets, voluntary groups and other events.

Residents said they were concerned about the "availability of adequate health and social services and their ability to access them"

The report also said there is a "strong perception" among residents that health and care services available do not meet the needs of the growing population.

The watchdog has sent a letter to NHS England about the shortage of dentists and has lobbied Oxfordshire County Council's head of adult social care raising concerns about changes to adult day care services

Healthwatch's executive director Rosalind Pearce said. "We now urge service commissioners and providers to use this report as a starting point to produce a detailed plan for future health and social care provision for Bicester.

"Any plan needs to take fully into account the most up-to-date estimates of the likely extent, nature and timing of the projected population growth in the area."

A spokesperson for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group said. "The priority for Oxfordshire CCG is to ensure there are effective GP and primary services across the whole county in the face of increasing demand and limited resources

"We are currently engaging with all our communities on the future of these services, based on the particular needs of the local population."

The spokesperson added that residents had raised these concerns at local workshops held as part of the review and had called for more services at Bicester Community Hospital

Stolen council car smashes into Aldi in robbery bid

A COUNCIL-OWNED car smashed into an Aldi in Chipping Norton.

Police are appealing for witnesses following the incident on Tuesday last week in which a vehicle was driven into the store in an attempt to steal an ATM.

Officers received a report of the attempted theft at the supermarket in Banbury Road at around 12.40am.

Police attended the scene and saw that a vehicle had been driven into the store causing damage

The offenders had left the scene. No one was injured during the incident and nothing was stolen

The vehicle involved was a West Oxfordshire District Council-marked Land Rover, which was reported stolen from Witney overnight.

Detective Constable Grahame Lea said. "We are working to identify and locate the offenders. I would also like to speak to anyone who saw the distinctive vehicle being driven in the area at around the time."

If you can help, call 101

InBrief

Need office space?

PEOPLE who run their own small business or are self-employed can take advantage of co working office space from early 2018.

A unit in Franklins House, Bicester is currently being transformed into a hot desk style facility for up to 67 people.

Co-working offices allow people who work from home are self-employed, or who have started small businesses to work together in a shared environment exchanging ideas and building a community

For more information go to perchcoworking.co.uk.

Midsomer donation

MIDSOMER Tour Guides in Thame have raised £374 for the mayor's charities Red Kite Family Centre and Thame & District Day Centre.

Cllr Tom Wyse was presented with a cheque by the tour group

The Midsomer Tours ran weekly from May to October taking in some of the landmarks from the popular TV show Midsomer Murders. They are run by trained volunteers who are members of Thame Players.

This year 200 people from the UK, Australia, Scandinavia, USA and Germany joined the tour, proceeds from which were given to the Mayor's Charities, Thame Museum, which is a Midsomer filming location and future promotion of the walking tours.

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RAF Benson personnel, from left, Padre Phil Corrigan MAcr Gareth Attridge, Wg Cdr Andy Baron (flying suit behind the two ladies in red), SAC Alexandria Stewart (elf at the front), Eamon Geraghty (Santa, former RAF engineering warrant officer who retired recently), Cpl Andrew Mills (in Santa hat), Flt Lt Paul Mackay (flying suit and maroon Christmas jumper), Rebecca Hunt (white Christmas jumper at the front), Cpl Joanne Farrell (far right) are pictured with play specialists from the Children's Hospital, from left in red polo shirts, Samantha Martlock, Grace Midwinter, Klarissa Burraws and Christina Turner, who helpa organise the event each year, and support worker Theresa King.
Pictures: *Cpl Tony Hawke*

Special delivery

FATHER Christmas abandoned his traditional sleigh in favour of a Puma HC2 helicopter last week as he dropped off presents to ill children

Santa, his elf and helpers from RAF Benson visited children families and staff at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington to spread festive joy

During the flying visit Santa and co brought smiles to the faces of children who will be spending Christmas on the wards by delivering gifts donated by the south Oxfordshire base s personnel and families

The man in red touched down in style on the helipad at the hospital, which also serves the Children's Hospital as part of an annual RAF Benson training exercise

InBrief

Football training

PRIMARY schools in Oxford will receive on-going training from professional coaches as part of the Premier League s Primary Stars project in the New Year

Coaches from Oxford United Football Community Trust, in partnership with Oxford City Council, will visit five schools in Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill to deliver high quality physical education to help children achieve their sporting potential.

Councillor Linda Smith executive board member for sport, leisure and parks said the scheme will "encourage their interest in team sports help keep them active and nurture any hidden talent"

TV and Xbox stolen

A TELEVISION Xbox and games were stolen from a student house in Oxford.

The offender/s climbed over a fence at the rear of the Iffley Road property between 4 30am and 8 45am on Saturday December 9, entering via an unsecure back door

Police are now appealing for witnesses and information.

Call 101 quoting reference number 43170365986 with any information.

>> For the latest news go to oxfordshiregaurdian co.uk

Skills shortages could affect business growth

Salaries increase but lack of suitable applicants

By **Owen Hughes**

OXFORD businesses face a skills shortage that could impact on growth in 2018 despite salaries across the region seeing an above average increase

A new report published by the professional recruiting group Hays shows that more than half of Oxford-based businesses expect their activity to increase with four in five organisations planning to recruit over the next 12 months.

Salaries increased by around two per cent more than the UK average but 69 per cent of employers have experienced a shortage of suitable applicants over the past year.

Almost 1,200 employers and employees in the Thames Valley region took part in the survey and more than two thirds of respondents said they have experienced moderate to extreme skills shortages driving higher salaries

Nearly a quarter of employees cited salary and benefits as their main reason for wanting to leave their job in the next 12 months

More than a fifth of businesses are now recruiting temporary professionals in a bid to alleviate the mounting pressure.

Darren Montagu, regional managing director of Hays in the south, said. "Despite the economic and political uncertainty and challenges faced by UK organisations, employers across Oxford are clearly optimistic about the year ahead.

"However, skills shortages have the potential to severely limit companies' growth, hinder productivity and damage employee morale at a critical time."

He added. "We therefore suggest that organisations look to make workforce planning a key strategic priority, invest in their employer brand, and use contingent workers for more than just projects."

The highest average salary increases occurred in the construction and property industry (2.7 per cent) followed by IT (2.3 per cent) and engineering (2.2 per cent)

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InBrief

Clearing up in blitz

THE Bretch Hill has been given e clear up with 22 tonnes nf waste removed in just a week.

Six Cherwell District Council workers cleared litter, graffiti and bulky waste as part of the blitz.

Cllr Debbie Pickford, Cherwell's lead member for clean and green, said: "Our street cleansing team put in long hours all year round keeping the district clean and during our blitz campaigns they go above and beyond the call of their ordinary duties to get our busiest areas looking spick and span."

The next neighbourhood blitz will take place from Monday January 22, at Bure Park, Bicester

Rescue mission

A NEW community initiative, Rescue Our Planet Earth, has collected seven bags of litter after its first tidy up

In two hours, the group covered a three-mile stretch around Cropredy

As well as collecting glass bottles, jars, plastic bottles, packaging and bags, cans cones a tyre and scrap metal, the group said it found "loads" of dog poo bags where owners had picked up after their pet and then thrown it in the water or hedge.

>> Got a story? Call the newsdesk on 01235 516919

Den building fun whatever the weather

YOUNG adventurers can take a walk on the wild side no matter the weather thanks to a local homebuilder

Schoolchildren from Deddington CofE Primary School's forest school were given den building equipment and a first aid kit for Deddington CofE Primary School's forest school and hope the children are making good use of their den building equipment when out in the wind and rain."

The equipment, donated by David Wilson Homes, will allow the youngsters to explore and play in the outdoors safely in all weathers.

Steve Barton senior sales manager at David Wilson Homes, said: "We are delighted to be funding den building equipment and a first aid kit for Deddington CofE Primary School's forest school and hope the children are making good use of their den building equipment when out in the wind and rain."

During forest school sessions, pupils aged three to five go into the school's private woodland opposite the homebuilder's Deddington Grange development in Banbury

Headteacher Clive Evans said the scheme has enabled many children to come out of their shell, while enhancing their social, emotional and academic skills

Give the gift of blood this Christmas

PEOPLE in Oxford can help give a valuable gift this festive season by donating blood

The NHS Blood and Transplant centre in Headington is asking donors in the city to book an appointment to donate before Christmas to ensure hospitals can continue to treat patients during a busy period

According to the centre many children and adults will need transfusions over the festive period as treatment for a blood condition or cancer or due to surgery, childbirth or an accident

Shailesh Mistry, regional donor marketing operations manager said: "Blood stock levels can dip over the busy festive period as Christmas shopping, celebrations and extended public holidays mean giving blood can slip off to-do lists

"But we need our loyal donors in Oxford more than ever at this time of year"

All blood groups are being asked to make and keep their lifesaving appointment in the run up to and over Christmas but vulnerable groups such as O negative, B negative and A negative platelets are particularly important.

To book an appointment visit www.blood.co.uk.

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Look properly to avoid crashes, motorists told

By George Welch

FAILING to look properly is the biggest cause of collisions on the roads in Oxfordshire, according to figures from the Department for Transport.

There were 1,498 reported collisions in Oxfordshire in 2016 the 19th highest figure in England for the year

A driver/rider failing to look properly contributed to 538 of these collisions with a further 341 caused at least in part by motorists failing to judge other drivers path or speed.

Reckless driving on the A34 has caused multiple fatalities this year – in 2016 there were 277 incidents across the county caused by this type of driving

Poor manoeuvring (197 collisions) and loss of control (168) rounded off the top five causes for crashes in Oxfordshire.

Maurizio Fantato, from the Witney Oxford Transport (WOT) group, which has advocated investing in new railways in order to meet planned population growth, has long called for road improvements across the county

"It's easy to generalise, but there must be a correlation between a higher than average number of incidents in Oxfordshire and increased road usage on a poorly maintained network," he said.

"WOT has always made the case for greater provision of public transport using its own dedicated infrastructure rather than having to share it with other road users.

"This isn't just for safety reasons, but to meet modern requirements for efficient and effective transport links."

Slippery road surfaces (150), tailgating (64), sudden braking (82) travelling too fast for the conditions (69) and pedestrians failing to look properly completed the top 10

Mr Fantato added that a way to reduce the number of collisions is by encouraging would-be drivers to utilise alternative transport modes

He said: "We desperately need to get more people out of their cars and on different transport modes

"This will not only result in more manageable road traffic levels but also less pollution, a better environment and definitely fewer accidents."

Motorists failing to look properly were the biggest cause of crashes across Great Britain, contributing to a total of 42,139 reported collisions

The figures for Oxfordshire were compared to the other 151 local authority areas where figures are available

Kent had the highest number of crashes with a total of 4,428

Thousands using new River Rapids bus route already

A NEW bus route serving travellers between Oxford and Henley has been warmly received by thousands of passengers.

More than 15,830 passengers per week have used Thames Travel's River Rapids service, which passes through Wallingford, since it was launched in November

The service, which reinstated the direct route from Oxford to Henley also increased the frequency of buses between the two locations from every 30 to 20 minutes on Mondays to Saturdays

Thames Travel introduced the service to promote using buses as well as improve commuter links

Managing director Phil Southall said: "River Rapids has been warmly received by passengers Numbers from the first month in operation are very encouraging, with more than 15,000 people now using the service per week."

Nine buses were refurbished in distinctive livery

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New Groups

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Contact Laure 07879410949

Didcot
Didcot Baptist Church Wantage Road
Didcot, OX11 0BS
Fridays 9 30am
Contact Kerry 07583 085780

Monday

Wantage
The Guildry, St Mary s Convent
Wantage, OX12 9DJ
Mondays 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Nicki 07596528548

Didcot
Didcot Baptist Church Wantage Road
Didcot OX11 0BS
Mondays 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Laura 07879410949

Abingdon
Abingdon Rugby Club, Lambrick Way
Abingdon OX14 5TJ
Mondays 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Claire 07508202642

Tuesday

Chalsey
Chalsey Day Centre, Church Road
Chalsey, OX10 9PQ
Tuesdays 7 30pm
Contact Bev 07895059079

Grove
The Dixon Suite Old Mill Hall
Grove OX12 7LB
Tuesdays 3 30pm, 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Nicki 07596528548

Dalton Barracks
Dalton Barracks Community Centre,
Cholswell Road Abingdon OX13 6HA
Tuesdays 5 30 pm & 7 30 pm
Contact Kev 07568 092 964

Didcot
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road
Didcot, OX11 7JN
Tuesdays 9 30am 11 30am 5pm & 7pm
Contact Carol 07788132541

Wednesday

Faringdan
Faringdon United Church, Coxwell Street
Faringdon SN7 7HA
Wednesdays 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Louise 07717681939

Steventon
Steventon Village Hall The Green
Steventon, OX13 6RR
Wednesdays 9 30am 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Nicola 07704633340

Abingdan
Tilsley Park, Dunmore Road
Abingdon OX14 1PU
Wednesdays 7 30pm
Contact Michele 07483 848970

Wallingford
Centre 70, Kinecroft,
Wallingford OX10 0DT
Wednesdays 10 00 am 3 30pm, 5 30pm &
7 30pm
Contact Amy 07514255703

Thursday

Stanford in the Vala
CE Primary School, High Street
Stanford in the Vale SN7 8LH
Thursdays 7 30pm
Contact Nancy 07710177808

Abingdon
Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive
Abingdon, OX14 1XP
Thursdays 9 30am 11 30am, 3 15 pm, 5 00 pm &
7 00 pm
Contact Kev 07568 092964

Didcot
Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road
Didcot, OX11 7JN
Thursdays 3 30pm 5 30pm & 7 30pm
Contact Claire 07508202642

Faringdon
Faringdon United Church, Coxwell Street
Faringdon SN7 7HA
Thursdays 9 30am
Contact Louise 07717681939

Saturday

Didcot
Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road
Didcot, OX11 0BS
Saturdays 7 00am, 9 00am & 11 00am (new time)
Contact Kerry 07583 085780

Abingdon
Preston Road Community Centre Midgel Close
Abingdon, OX14 5NR
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Mains

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Festive beef burger topped with a pulled pork & cracked black pepper, streaky bacon and roelted brie, with fries, cranberry & BBQ ketchup and sprout slaw (GF)

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Christmas pudding served with crème anglaise
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Out Abo

Bolton comes to Oxford

Join Michael for an intimate evening of music

By Samantha McGregor

TICKETS have gone on sale for legendary singer Michael Bolton as he brings his UK tour to Oxford

The Grammy-award winning singer will take to the New Theatre stage on February 9

Michael, also a songwriter and social activist, has sold more than 65 million records worldwide and has won a string of awards

His hits include How am I Supposed to Live Without You, To Love Somebody, Missing You Now, Drift Away and Soul Provider

During his singing career he has had nine number one singles, won two Grammys for Best Pop Male Vocal Performance, six American Music Awards, and a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

His songs have been recorded by the likes of KISS, Kanye West, Jay Z, Barbra Streisand, Cher and Marc Anthony

Michael said: "Hello to all my UK fans. I have created an evening with Michael Bolton telling my life story. Join me for an intimate evening sharing the pictures and stories behind my music. I hope to see you there."

As a songwriter, Michael has earned more than 24 BMI & ASCAP Awards, including Songwriter of the Year, nine Million-Air awards, and the Hitmakers Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame

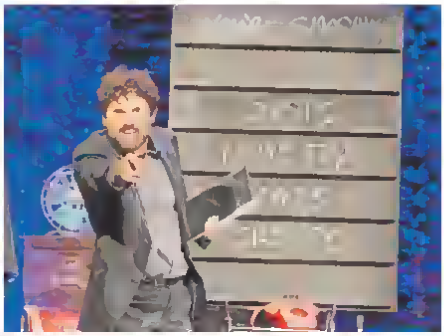
He has written with some of the greatest talents of our time, including Bob Dylan, Paul Stanley, Lady Gaga, Diane Warren and David Foster

Michael is currently preparing to release his 27th album, called Songs of Cinema, a tribute to songs from the world's most iconic films

As Michael continues to tour the world each year, he has performed with legends such as Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Jose Carreras, Renee Fleming and BB King

Aside from music, Michael has also begun to make appearances in from of the camera, including several episodes of CBS's hit series Two and a Half Men, the hit Fox network show Glee, and HBO's hit series Last Week Tonight with John Oliver

For tickets drop into the box office in George Street, call 0844 871 3020 or view atgtickets.com/oxford



Join the cast in Oxford and help create a new musical

Get involved in Showstopper!

THE Oxford Playhouse is gearing up to launch the new year with a bang as musical comedy Showstopper returns to the city

For one night only on January 10 Showstopper will take to the stage

But this is no ordinary stage show as it requires the audience to help co-create the show which is different every performance.

Showstopper has been described as a playful improvised show that changes every night with "hilarious consequences"

In each performance, the actors rely on the audiences ideas to create and develop a musical live on stage

With a cast of seven plus a live band, audience suggestions are transformed into unpredictable all singing and all-dancing shows.

The Olivier award-winning troupe have been an Edinburgh Festival must-see for the past decade

Showstopper is currently enjoying a West End run at the Lyric Theatre in Shaftsbury Avenue

Tickets for Showstopper start at £10 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or book online via oxfordplayhouse.com

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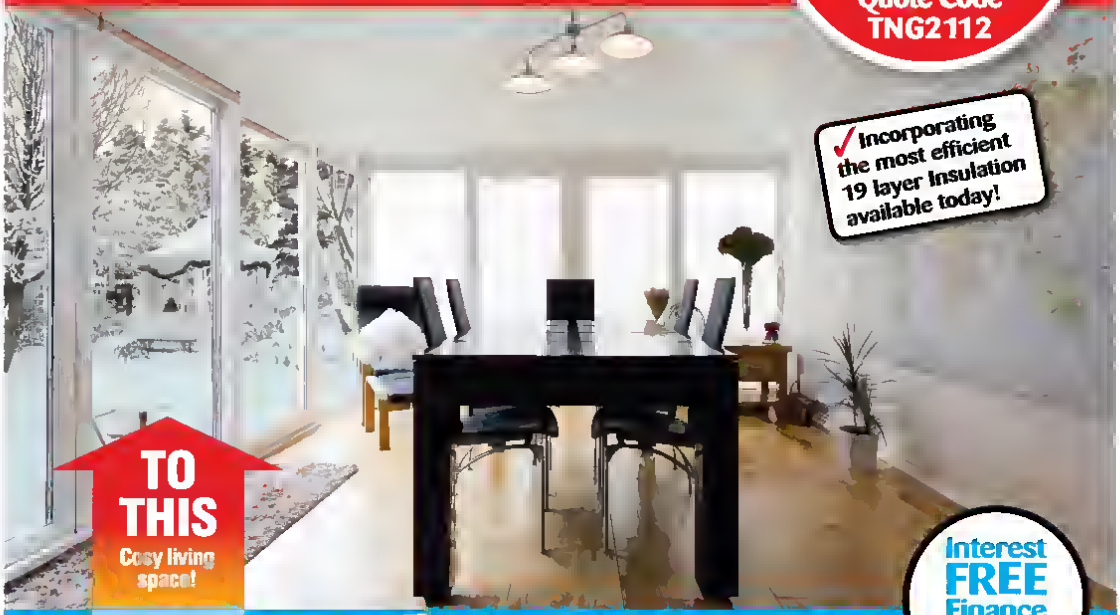

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Review: Samantha McGregor

War Horse is true theatrical triumph

WE have waited almost two years for War Horse to arrive at Oxford's New Theatre so being there on opening night was worth every minute

What a fantastic show – worthy of its standing ovation. This show is a must see this Christmas.

The puppetry is amazing the story telling sensational the production is high in my top five list of must see shows

War Horse is based on the Michael Morpurgo book and is a tale of courage loyalty and friendship following the life of a young boy called Albert, played by Thomas Dennis and his horse Joey and is set against the backdrop of the First World War

We loved how horses Joey and Topthorn were brought to life by the puppeteers a shift of a head swish of a tail the sounds the twech of an ear It was truly impressive.

The cast did a sterling job from Joey's drunken father played by Jasper William Cartwright, to Friedrich played by Peter Becker and Emilie who was played by Joelle Brabban you felt their pain and suffering the desperation the war had created

A mention must go to the cheeky geese – who brought a little comedy to an otherwise touching tale

This show also brought home the horror and sorrow of the First World War the tremendous loss of life the impact of war not just on the men, their families and small communities but the horses that were taken into battle as well

It also explored the bond between horse and human and it was that bond with Albert that eventually saved Joey

War Horse is more poignant than ever as this tour coincides with the centenary commemorations of the end of the First World War

Just one word of caution watch out for the gunshots a few of us nearly jumped out of our seats after the first few shots were fired

The show has been seen by more than seven million people worldwide and has won 25 awards including the Tony Award for Best Play on Broadway and you can see why

You can catch War Horse at Oxford's New Theatre until Saturday January 6

Tickets are available from the New Theatre box office on George Street by calling 0844 871 3020 or go to atgtickets.com/oxford

On stage

Exhibition first

Modern Art Oxford will feature the first major UK solo exhibition by Brazilian artist Cinthia Marcelle from March 10 until May 27

The gallery has commissioned a new site-specific installation and animation for the upper galleries.

The São Paulo based artist works with sculpture film performance and installation using the themes of labour environment and social justice.

They will rock you

Tickets are on sale for tribute act Mercury Queen Tribute who come to the New Theatre on March 29

Winners of the National Tribute Awards the show will feature popular Queen hits such as Bohemian Rhapsody We Are the Champions We Will Rock You and many more

For tickets go to atgtickets.com/oxford

Cropredy launches

The Levellers are among the first acts announced for Fairport's Cropredy Convention 2018 festival

The Levellers will headline the three day event on August 9 host band Fairport Convention will play two sets and on Saturday Scottish singer-songwriter Al Stewart will perform

More acts will be announced in January For tickets with discounts available for early birds go to fairportconvention.com

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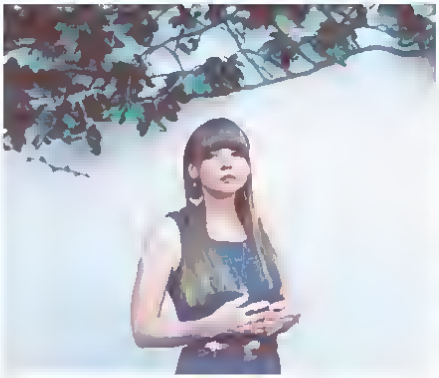
Rising US star set to shine

By Samantha McGregor



RISING star Courtney Marie Andrews has announced her 2018 tour dates and Oxford is her second stop.

Singer/songwriter Courtney is back and will perform at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival before heading south to St Barnabus Church in St Barnabus Street, Oxford for one night on Saturday February 3.

Originally from Arizona, Courtney spent a decade touring solo and with large pop bands but felt the need for a break, she missed America was going through a personal heartbreak and so bid farewell to the music industry and moved to a small rural town in the deep forests of Washington State.

However she re-emerged in 2015 with a new fire and a new album and released Honest Life a mixture of indie-folk and Americana with a country flavour reminiscent of her Southwestern roots.

Celebrating the recent release of a video for Irene from Honest Life she describes the tune as an "anthem for the timid a beautiful hymn to bolster confidence and believe in your potential".

Courtney said: "Irene is the little voice inside most of us that says we aren't good enough or strong enough.

"It's about shutting that voice off while also accepting life's inevitable struggles. It is about coming to terms with who you are and believing in that person.

"Irene was written for a friend who was going through a confusing time but like some songs do over time it turned into a song about not only myself but all of the women that I love. Irene is amazing she just doesn't know it yet."

Following on from the success in Europe Honest Life has been re-released and includes a bonus 7" of unreleased recordings.

Once her spong tour has been completed Courtney will return in August/September for a UK and European tour including two London dates and the End of The Road Festival on September 2.

Andrews returned from a successful tour with Joe Pug in Australia and a North American tour with Hamilton Leithauser.

For more information and tickets view wegottickets.com

Slade's seasonal greeting

Wolverhapton glam-rock legends Slade will take to the Oxford stage tonight to wish revellers Merry Christmas Everybody.

With new lead singer Mal McNulty at the helm replacing Noddy Holder alongside founder Slade members Dave Hill and Don Powell and former Mud guitarist John Berry the band play Oxford's O2 Academy.

A firm favourite with the nation thanks to their blend of pop and rock 'n' roll Slade have had 23 top 20 singles and six that hit the number one spot.

So the gig promises to be one to remember as the boys belt out tunes from the band's 30-year repertoire.

Firm favourites include Cum On Feel The Noize and Coz I Luv You which are two Slade tunes featured today in TV commercials for some of the world's biggest companies.

Slade first hit the road in 1966, touring throughout Great Britain and Europe and achieved their first chart hit in May 1971 with the Bobby Marchan song Get Down and Get With It followed by many more.

After an appearance at Reading Rock Festival to a 100,000 audience the band stole the show and built up a whole new group of fans.

Tunes including We'll Bring The House Down My Oh My Run Run Away Mama Weer All Crazee Now and what else but Merry Christmas Everybody followed.

For tickets call 0844 477 1000 or go to o2academy.com/oxford

Competition

WIN tickets to "Icons of the 80s" at The New Theatre, Oxford

Entertainers is proud to bring together your favourite eighties artists all on one stage! The latest line-up includes Go West, Nik Kershaw and Cutting Crew together in one unique concert.

The eighties are back and these legendary stars have joined forces for a truly incredible once in a lifetime, concert experience at Oxford's New Theatre on January 18th at 7.30pm.

With millions of albums sales and hits like We Close Our Eyes Call Me King Of Wishful Thinking Wouldn't It Be Good, The Riddle I Won't Let The Sun Go Down On Me, I've Been In Love Before and the classic (I Just) Died In Your Arms this authentic 80s triple header is not to be missed.

Go West It has been over 30 years since Go West had their first hit single We Close Our Eyes. Other hits followed including Call Me Goodbye Girl and Don't Look Down, Faithful and the smash hit theme song in the film Pretty Woman King of Wishful Thinking.

Nik Kershaw Nik Kershaw first achieved chart success in 1984 with Wouldn't It Be Good? followed by other classics such as Won't Let the Sun Go Down on Me and The Riddle. A prolific writer for other artists Nik also penned the number one single The One and Only for Chesney Hawkes.

Cutting Crew Originally formed in the mid-80s, this Grammy nominated, Anglo-Canadian rock band will always be remembered for their classic song (I Just) Died In Your Arms, which helped define the musical sounds of the club scene during the eighties and is still played widely today. Over twenty years later, with millions of album sales, original singer/songwriter Nick Van Eede has signed new recording publishing deals and is back on the road promoting his awesome new material.

Closing date Thursday, January 11, 2018

Win tickets!

We have a pair of tickets to this great show at The New Theatre and to be in with a chance of winning all you have to do is answer the following simple question.

Q: When did Nik Kershaw first chart with Wouldn't It Be good?

To enter this competition just email your answer to:

competitions@theoxfordpaper.co.uk

FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than celebrity make-over as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from - all instructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view Colourfence is the Rolls Royce of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood – plenty of additional benefits and what's more it is better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence, once professionally installed – Colourfence really will stay up.

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply – see website or call for details.

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

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Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientifically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free
- Save time & money – no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
- Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!

NO PRESSURE PROMISE

To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

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puzzle drome

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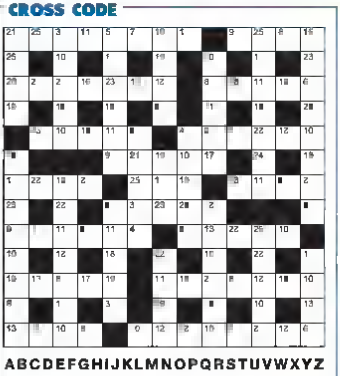
CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the central grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and central grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

SPOT THE SHOWPIECE

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically

Quiz Challenge

1. **What was classical composer Beethoven's first name?**
2. **Who did Harriet Harman succeed as deputy leader of the Labour Party in 2007?**
3. **The great saphenous is the longest what in the human body?**
4. **What CF is another term for shell shock, a reaction of some soldiers to the trauma of battle?**
5. **In which English city would you find Addenbrooke's Hospital?**
6. **Pickett's Charge was a defining moment of which battle of the American Civil War?**
7. **In which country was All Saints singer Nicole Appleton born in 1974?**
8. **What position in ballet is also the title of a 1986 film thriller starring Gregory Peck and Sophia Loren?**
9. **In which country are the cities Varna and Burgas?**
10. **The Titanic ocean-liner visited which French port on its maiden voyage?**

NONAGRAM

R	I	C
A	D	O
T	I	N

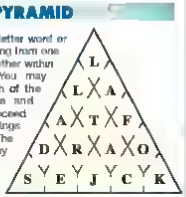
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
26 Good, 31 Very Good, 36 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated/under bandwidths and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; varied spellings of the same word (where one/two variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber



FIVE ALIVE

JV	EU	GR	OA	RN
UE		AI		AE
RI	AN	FD	IT	SA
SC		AT		AP
EY	UA	RS	TE	LS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

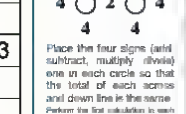
SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

	8			1	2	6		4
	9	7	4					2
2	1		6	7	5			
	7				9	4	2	6
9		5	8		4	3	1	
						5	9	
	4	6						
		8			1	2		9
3	2						4	1

3					7			
			6			1		2
			4		8		6	
			5			2		3
1	9				7	5		
				4				
			8	9				1
					3			
			7		6		2	

EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the conventional law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try some of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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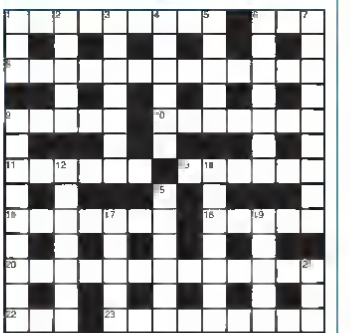
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



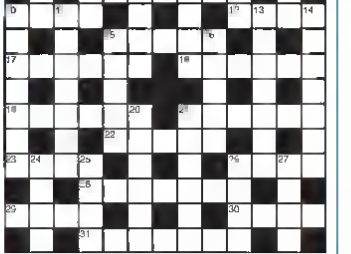
ACROSS

1 Flower which wins a prize at the dairy show? (9)
6. Say nothing for conceit (3)
8. Net turning to crime? (5,4)
9. Another girl rejected Alice (5)
10 Military duty causes tiredness (7)
11. Shrewd union leader in disorganised state (6)
13. Transport found in lowland Austria (6)
16. Most eager to be having the best sight (7)
18. Tea in a series of shops (5)
20. Philosopher encountered a doctor (13)
22. Born of woman (3)
23 Thief unusually silent going round the bend (9)

DOWN

1 Being not in, ask earnestly (3)
2. It will shortly be a woven fabric (5)
3. Implant engineer on floating logs (7)
4 Exclude copper a well-dressed person (3,3)
5. Design the first factory (5)
6. Busy and seen to be married (7)
7 About to go off round the corner (2,3,4)
8. Burglar – or comedian? (5)
12. Rewrite letters of support (7)
14 Attribute to an ancient writer (7)
15. One who is not going the persistent sort (6)
17 Banish former Portuguese leader with the Spanish (5)
19 Plea put forward by one after dodging ball (5)
21 It is clear a number turned up (3)

QUICK CROSSWORD



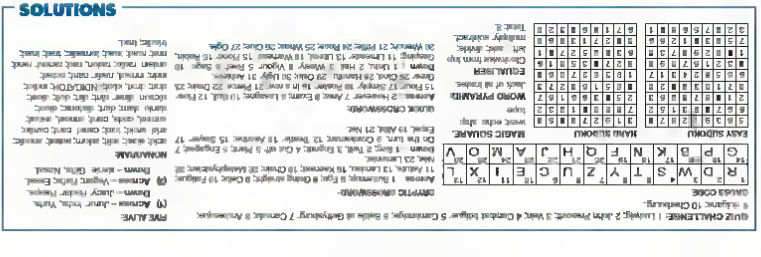
ACROSS

2. Nevertheless (7)
7 Region (4)
9 Test (4)
9 Pasta dish (7)
10 Seabird (4)
12. Glide smoothly (4)
15 Ground wheat (5)
17 Merely (5)
19 Duty schedule (6)
19 Lined up (2,1,3)
21 Penetrate (5)
22 Waste pipe (5)
23 Developed (4)
26 Lump of earth (4)
28. Small number (7)
29 Norwegian capital (4)
30. Frightful (4)
31 Accomplish (7)

DOWN

1 Pakistani language (4)
2. Foyer (4)
3. Sagaciously (6)
4 Energy (6)
5 Coral ridge (4)
6. Starchy cereal (4)
10. Breathing in gulps (7)
11 Fuzzy drink (7)
13. Wrest for word (7)
14 Missile payload (7)
15 Deluge (5)
16. Red-breasted bird (5)
20 Sprain (6)
21 Nonsense (6)
24. English national flower (4)
28 Command to stop (4)
28 Hint (4)
27 Eye inchmusely (4)

SOLUTIONS



Saturday December 23rd

TOP TV

BBC 1

2.50pm Frozen

BBC 2

1.40pm The Millionaire's Gift Guide

ITV

4.20pm Despicable Me

Channel 4

5.10pm Gogglesprogs Christmas Special

Channel 5

10.15am The Gadget Show

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.30am Saturday Kitchen **11.00am** Mary Berry's Christmas Party	**8.30am** The Big Family Cooking Showdown **9.30am** The Muppets **11.10am** Nature's Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers: Natural World	**8.55am** Scramble@ Sketch Show **9.25am** ITV News **9.30am** Saturday Morning with James Martin at Christmas **11.25am** Gino's Italian Coastal Escape **11.55am** Countrywise	**7.30am** Rupert the Mouse **9.00am** The Rovtrolls **10.55am** Toy Story That Time Forgot **11.20am** Toy Story Toons **11.55am** Toy Story of Terror	**9.05am** Shimmer and Shine **9.15am** Digby Dragon **9.30am** Peppa Pig **9.40am** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles **10.15am** The Gadget Show **11.05am** A Christmas Story

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.00pm Football Focus **1.00pm** BBC News **1.10pm** Weather **1.15pm** Cool Running **2.50pm** Frozen **4.20pm** Final Score **5.30pm** Len Goodman's Partners in Rhyme Christmas Special	**12.10pm** Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites **12.40pm** Nigella's Christmas Table **1.40pm** The Millionaire's Gift Guide **2.40pm** Talking Pictures **3.10pm** Mildred Pierce **5.00pm** Natural World	**12.25pm** ITV News **12.35pm** Tipping Point **1.35pm** Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone **4.30pm** Despicable Me	**12.20pm** Father Christmas **12.50pm** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas **1.20pm** The Simpsons **3.00pm** The World's Most Expensive Christmas **4.00pm** Kirstie's Handmade Christmas **5.00pm** Channel 4 News **5.10pm** Gogglesprogs Christmas Special	**12.55pm** A Heavenly Christmas **2.40pm** Scrooge **3.40pm** 5 News **3.45pm** Scrooge **5.00pm** Elf: The Musical

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00pm BBC News **6.10pm** Regional News **6.13pm** Weather **6.15pm** Penniless Celebrities Christmas Special **7.10pm** Even Better Than the Real Thing – Christmas Special **8.05pm** Casualty **8.55pm** Miranda **9.30pm** Our Friend Victoria Christmas Special **10.10pm** BBC News **10.25pm** Weather **10.20pm** Match of the Day	**6.00pm** Bill **7.30pm** Sir Lenny Henry: A Life on Screen **8.20pm** Dad's Army **9.00pm** Feud: Bette and Joan **10.35pm** What Even Happened to Baby Jane? **12.45am** Absolutely Fashion **1.45am** Mary Berry's Christmas Party **2.45am** This is BBC Two **6.15am** Nature's Weirdest Events	**6.30pm** Regional News and Weather **6.40pm** ITV News **7.00pm** You've Been Framed! **7.30pm** Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **8.00pm** The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies **10.35pm** ITV News **10.55pm** Miranda, Morecambe and Wise and Me **12.40am** Jackpot247 **3.00am** The Hungry Sailors **3.50am** ITV Nightscreen **6.00am** Sooty	**6.10pm** Crocodile Dundee **8.00pm** The World's Best Christmas Lights: From Liverpool to Bethlehem **9.00pm** The Wolverine **11.20pm** Gladiator **2.10am** Hollyoaks Omnibus **4.45am** Location, Location, Location **5.40am** The Little Penguin Pennies Racing Adventure	**9.00pm** Blind Date **9.00pm** Cruising with Jane McDonald **10.00pm** Jane and Friends at Christmas **10.55pm** Chas and Dave's Christmas Knees-Up **11.50pm** Football on 5 **1.15am** Super Casino **3.10am** Our Dream Hotel **4.00am** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **4.50am** Access **4.55am** House Doctor **5.20am** Wildlife SOS **5.45am** Chinese Food in Minutes **6.00am** Little Princess

Home Owners aged 50+

Protect your home from future care home fees

"We've worked hard and saved all our lives. Why should the Local Authority get it all?"

Does this sound familiar?

"We have made our Wills, leaving everything to each other and then to the children."

These are known as Mirror Wills. Sounds reassuring enough, doesn't it? But your children could in fact end up with very little or even nothing at all.

If your surviving spouse has to go into care, they will have to use all their assets to pay for their care until they get down to their last £14,250. It is therefore not a good idea to leave your half share of the home to your surviving partner but instead leave them the use of your share. This can be achieved by making new Property Trust Wills. These legitimate steps must be taken while you are both alive and in reasonable good mental health. It is therefore important for couples to act now!

Most of our clients come to us having already made standard Mirror Wills or have been meaning to make a Will but simply haven't got around to it. With Property Trust Wills, yourself and your spouse/partner each leave your half share of the home to the children in Trust but state that they are not to receive it during the lifetime of the surviving spouse/partner. This half would then NOT be included in any future means test calculations for care fees. The surviving spouse is free to sell their share of the home, raise cash or move house. Your children are powerless to intervene but simply have to wait for their inheritance, as they would have done previously.

April King Legal are your local estate law specialists and have prepared a jargon-free guide to protecting your hard earned assets. **Call for your free copy today.** Your details will remain confidential and never passed to any third party.

These invaluable information packs also include details of **Lasting Power of Attorney** and our special **Bloodline Trust Wills** which help prevent your children and grandchildren from losing their inheritance due to a child's divorce, remarriage or financial difficulties.

April King Legal

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Lines open Mon-Fri 8am–8pm Sat & Sun 10am–4pm

April King has 29 offices across the Midlands.
Your local office is: Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7HT

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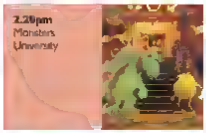
Sunday December 24th - Christmas Eve

TOP TV

BBC 1



2.20pm Monsters University

MORNING

7.25am Match of the Day
9.05am Planes
10.30am The Santa Clause

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Life in the Snow
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Songs of Praise
1.45pm The Farmer's Llamas
2.15pm Hammy's Boomerang Adventure
2.20pm Monsters University
3.55pm Dontstrugs
4.10pm Home
5.35pm BBC News
5.50pm Regional News & weather

EVENING

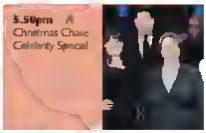
6.00pm Countryfile
7.00pm Mary, Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You
8.00pm EastEnders
8.30pm Michael Mcintyre's Big Christmas Show
9.35pm Not Going Out
10.15pm BBC News
10.35pm Weather
10.30pm The Vicar of Dibley
11.15pm The Two Ronnies Sketchbook
11.45pm Midnight Mass From Leeds Cathedral
1.00am Great Expectations

BBC 2

8.00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017

7.00am An Island Parish
7.30am The Prime and Me
9.15am The Big Family Cooking Showdown
10.15am Saturday Kitchen Best Bites
11.45am Mary Berry's Absolute Christmas Favourites
12.20pm The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas
1.20pm Alex Polizzi's Perfect Christmas
2.20pm Cheetahs
3.20pm Guys and Dolls
5.45pm Carols from King's
7.00pm Dad's Army
8.00pm Christmas University Challenge 2017
8.30pm Winter's Weirdest Events
9.30pm The Great Gatsby
11.55pm Christmas TOTP2 Special
1.25am Whitney "Can I be Me
3.05am Holby City
4.05am This is BBC Two
8.10am The Hairy Bikers Home for Christmas

ITV



5.50pm A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special

8.10am Horrid Henry
8.25am Make it Pop
8.55am Scrambled!
9.25am Save Money: Good Food
9.55am Jack Frost
11.50am Catchphrase
12.45pm ITV News
12.55pm Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
4.00pm Cannonball Christmas Special
5.00pm You've Been Framed!
5.30pm Regional News and Weather
5.35pm ITV News
5.50pm A Christmas Chase: Celebrity Special
8.40pm All Star Musicals
8.30pm Magret in Montmartre
10.25pm ITV News
10.45pm A Night for the Emergency Services
11.45pm Christmas Carols on ITV
12.45am Casino Royale
3.00am ITV Nightscreen
5.00am The Aquabats! Super Show!
5.25am Make it Pop
5.45am Mr. Bean
8.00am Sonny
8.10am Oddbods
6.15am Om Nom Stories

Channel 4

5.55pm The Snowman and the Snowdog

7.00am Asterix in Paris: The Movie
8.15am The Big Bang Theory
9.05am James's Quick and Easy Food
9.40am Christmas Brunch
12.40pm Paul Hollywood
1.10pm James's Italian Christmas
2.10pm The Simpsons
3.35pm The Remainers
5.20pm The Snowman
5.55pm The Snowman and the Snowdog
8.20pm Channel 4 News
8.30pm The Muppet Christmas Carol
8.00pm Child Genius v Celebrities Christmas Special
9.00pm Gogglebox 2017
11.05pm The Inbetweeners
1.35am Man Down
2.00am The Last Leg Christmas Special
2.55am The Crystal Maze
3.00am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
4.40am Location, Location, Location
5.35am Four in a Bed
8.00am Asterix Go Wild

Channel 5

6.00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House

8.20am Noddy, Toyland Detective
8.35am Nella the Princess Knight
8.55am Digby Dragon
9.05am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.20am Gone with the Wind
1.35pm Oklahoma!
4.15pm Scrooge
8.00pm Agatha Christie's Crooked House
8.00pm The Yorkshire Vet
9.00pm Andrea Rueu: My Life in Music
10.20pm Andrea Rueu: Christmas in London
11.30pm An Audience with Donny and Marie
12.35am Lip Sync Battle UK
1.00am Super Casino
3.05am Love/Hate
4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
4.50am House Doctor
5.15am Access

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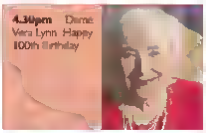
Monday December 25th - Christmas Day

TOP TV

BBC 1

3.00pm Trail
Queen's Christmas Broadcast

BBC 2



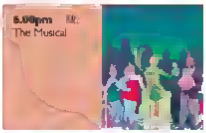
4.30pm Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday

ITV

3.10pm Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Channel 4

2.30pm The Alternative Christmas Message

Channel 5

6.00pm Elf: The Musical

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.00am Snow Queen	**7.10am** An Idiot's Parish	**7.05am** Horrid Henry	**7.20am** The Bear	**8.00am** Digby Dragon
9.45am Gio Jetters	**7.40am** Bee Movie	**7.30am** Scrambled!	**7.45am** Prep and Landing	**8.15am** Shimmer and Shine
10.00am Christmas Morning From All Saints Fulham	**9.00am** The Big Family Cooking Showdown	**9.25am** National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	**8.40am** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas	**8.30am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.00am The Madagascar Penguins In A Christmas Caper	**10.00am** Harry Potter: A History of Magic	**11.10am** Mr Bean's Holiday	**9.05am** The Simpsons	**8.50am** Molly
11.10am Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale	**11.00am** Carols from King's		**11.05am** Dr Seuss' the Lorax	**8.55am** Scrooge
				11.05am Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

AFTERNOON

12.10pm BBC News	**12.15pm** The Importance of Being Earnest	**12.50pm** Santa Claus	**12.40pm** The Snowman	**1.05pm** Singin' in the Rain
12.20pm Top of the Pops	**1.40pm** BBC Proms 2017	**3.00pm** HM the Queen	**1.30pm** The Snowman and the Snowdog	**3.10pm** Oliver!
1.20pm Tiny Story 3	**4.30pm** Dame Vera Lynn: Happy 100th Birthday	**3.10pm** Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban	**1.55pm** Father Christmas	
3.00pm The Queen's Christmas Broadcast	**5.30pm** The Queen's Christmas Broadcast	**5.50pm** Emmerdale	**2.25pm** Channel 4 News	
3.10pm Cinderella	**5.35pm** The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show 1977		**2.30pm** The Alternative Christmas Message	
4.40pm The Highway Rat			**2.35pm** Scrooged!	
5.10pm BBC News			**4.30pm** Dumbo	
5.20pm Weather			**5.50pm** Home Alone	
5.30pm Doctor Who				

EVENING

6.30pm Strictly Come Dancing	**6.45pm** Winter's Weirdest Events	**6.50pm** ITV Evening News	**7.40pm** The Great Christmas Rake Off	**6.00pm** Elf: The Musical
7.00pm Call the Midwife	**7.45pm** Dad's Army	**7.00pm** Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs	**9.00pm** First Dates at Christmas	**9.00pm** The Morecambe and Wise Story: Look Back in Laughter
9.00pm EastEnders	**8.35pm** Upstart Crow	**8.00pm** Coronation Street	**10.00pm** Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man	**10.50pm** Britain's Best Loved: Double Acts
10.00pm Mrs. Brown's Boys	**9.00pm** Sir Tom Jones and Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas	**9.00pm** Victoria	**12.00am** George Michael	**12.05am** Stephoe and Son
10.35pm 300 Years of French and Saunders	**10.00pm** Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage	**11.00pm** ITV News	**1.40am** George Michael	**1.45am** Super Casino
11.25pm BBC News	**11.05pm** Mrs. Henderson Presents	**11.15pm** The Holiday	**2.45am** The Crystal Maze	**3.05am** Love/Hate
11.35pm Weather	**12.45am** My Week with Marilyn	**1.45am** The Dam Busters	**3.40am** Location, Location, Location	**4.00am** Now That's Funny!
11.40pm On Christmas Night	**2.15am** This is BBC Two	**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen	**4.35am** Four in a Bed	**4.45am** House Doctor
11.45pm Have I Got a Bit More 2017 News for You	**6.15am** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	**6.00am** Sneity	**5.00am** Kirstie's Handmade Christmas	**5.10am** Housefloaters
12.30am Darcey Bussell		**6.10am** Ostriners	**5.20am** Moomins on the Riviera	**5.35am** Wildlife SOS
1.30am Weather for the Week Ahead		**6.15am** Om Nom Stories	**6.40am** Song of the Sea	**6.00am** Fullin Rock
1.35am BBC News		**6.20am** Share a Story		**6.05am** Poppy Cat
		6.25am Almost Naked Animals		**6.30am** Simon

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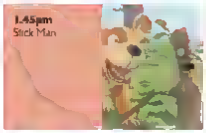
Brayley Cars Ltd trading as Brayley Kia Oxford acts a credit broker (not a lender) for the purposes of this financial promotion and can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers and may receive a commission from them for the introduction.

Tuesday December 26th - Boxing Day

BBC 1



1.45pm Stick Man

TOP TV

MORNING

9.00am Tinker Bell and the Legend of Neverbeast
10.10am Planes Fire and Rescue
11.25am Mary Mel and Sue's Big Christmas Thank You

AFTERNOON

12.25pm BBC News
12.35pm Regional News
12.40pm Weather
12.45pm Judi Dench My Passion for Trees
1.45pm Stick Man
2.10pm Shaun the Sheep Movie
3.30pm Doneliehugs
3.40pm Mary Poppins

EVENING

6.00pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News
6.25pm Weather
6.30pm Snowy Bears
7.30pm EastEnders
8.00pm Little Women
9.00pm The Missionaries
10.30pm BBC News
10.45pm Match of the Day
12.15am Girls Behind Bars: Stacey Donley in the USA
1.15am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.20am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

5.35pm Matthew Bourne's Cinderella

MORNING

7.45am Chimpanzee
8.55am The Big Family Cooking Showdown
9.55am Nadiya's British Food Adventure
10.55am The Sweet Makers: A Tudor Treat
11.55am A Hard Day's Night

AFTERNOON

1.20pm The Eagle Has Landed
3.30pm The Repair Shop at Christmas
4.30pm Final Score
5.25pm Matthew Bourne's Cinderella

EVENING

7.30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017
8.00pm Reindeer Family and Me
9.00pm Dragons' Den
10.00pm QI
10.30pm Two Doors Down
11.00pm Joanna and Jennifer: Absolutely Champers
12.00am Saturday Night Fever: The Ultimate Disco Movie
1.10am Sir Tom Jones and Beverley Knight's Gospel Christmas
2.10am Inside the Christmas Factory
3.10am Blue Planet II

ITV

3.30pm E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial

MORNING

7.05am Horrid Henry
7.20am Wishfart
7.30am Scrambled!
9.25am Fiona Bruce's Day Off
11.25am Cats and Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore

AFTERNOON

1.00pm ITV Racing: Live from Kempton
3.30pm E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
5.00pm ITV Evening News

EVENING

6.10pm Emmerdale
6.40pm Jurassic Wark!
7.00pm Coronation Street
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Birds of a Feather
11.15pm The Keith and Paddy Picture Show
11.45pm Al Murray's Make Christmas Great Again
12.45am Jackpot247
3.00am Tenable
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
5.55am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Sanity

Channel 4

6.00pm Back to the Future

MORNING

8.25am Short Circuit
10.25am The Simpsons

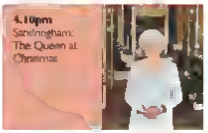
AFTERNOON

12.10pm Alien and the Chipmunks: The Squeakiquel
1.55pm Channel 4 News
2.00pm Child Genius v Celebrities: Christmas Special
3.05pm The Great Christmas Bake Off
4.20pm The Little Mermaid

EVENING

6.00pm Back to the Future
8.00pm Travel Man
9.00pm Big Fat Quiz of the Year
11.10pm Four Weddings and a Funeral
1.20am The Inbetweeners
3.10am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
4.00am Location, Location, Location
4.55am Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
5.10am Moshi Monsters: The Movie
6.40am Short Circuit 2

Channel 5



4.10pm Sandringham: The Queen at Christmas

MORNING

8.50am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.10am Milly
9.15am Access
9.20am Fete Make You Laugh Out Loud
9.55am Titanic
11.50am Matinee: Chariots of Fire

AFTERNOON

2.10pm Balmoral: A Hidden History
4.10pm Sandringham: The Queen at Christmas
5.30pm A Royal Night Out

EVENING

7.00pm The Strictly Story: Fake Tan, Tangos and a Ten From Len
8.30pm Dirty Dancing: Making Mawe Magic
10.00pm Dirty Dancing
12.00am Footballer 5
12.55am Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
1.45am Super Casino
3.05am Love/Hate
4.00am Now That's Funny!
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am House Busters
5.25am Wildlife SOS

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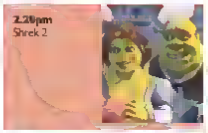
Wednesday December 27th

TOP TV

BBC 1



MORNING

7.45am Match of the Day
9.15am Turbo
10.45am The Princess and the Frog

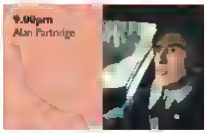
AFTERNOON

12.15pm Snow Bears
1.15pm BBC News
1.25pm Regional News
1.30pm Weather
1.35pm Father Brown
2.20pm Shrek 2
3.45pm The Gruffalo
4.15pm Big Hero 6
5.45pm Pointless

EVENING

6.30pm BBC News
6.58pm Regional News
6.55pm Weather
7.00pm Celebrity Mastermind
7.30pm A Question of Sport
8.00pm Little Women
9.00pm The Missionaries
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News
10.25pm Weather
10.30pm Mrs Brown's Boys
11.00pm Not Going Out
11.40pm Comic Relief 2017: 'Twas the Thanks After Red Nose Day

BBC 2



7.25am An Island Parish
7.55am Bears
9.10am The Big Family Cooking Showdown
10.10am Nadiya's British Food Adventure
11.10am The Sweet Makers: A Georgian Treat

12.10pm The Red Shoes
2.20pm World's Most Extraordinary Homes
3.20pm Inside the Factory
4.20pm The Man Who Never Was
6.00pm Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise
7.00pm Dad's Army
7.30pm Christmas University Challenge 2017
8.00pm Six Robots and Us

9.00pm Alan Partridge
10.00pm Orbit
11.55pm NFL
12.45am Bullpop at the BBC
1.45am Blur at Glastonbury
2.45am Joanna and Jennifer: Absolutely Champers
3.45am Rill
5.25am That's BBC Two

ITV

7.00am Mr Bean
7.10am Horrid Henry
7.25am K-9
9.25am Twins
11.25am Cannonball Christmas Special

12.25pm You've Been Framed!
12.55pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.00pm Midsomer Murders
3.00pm Tenable
4.00pm Tipping Point
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Paul O'Grady: For The Love of Dogs
6.30pm Regional News and Weather
6.45pm ITV Evening News
7.00pm Emmerdale
7.30pm Coronation Street
8.00pm Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
10.50pm ITV News
11.05pm Tina and Bobby
12.05am Get Shirty
12.55am Jackpot247
3.00am May the Best House Win
3.50am ITV Nightscreen

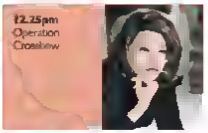
Channel 4

8.40am Lego Masters
9.40am The Simpsons
11.05am Small Soldiers

1.15pm Sunshine on Leith
3.10pm Sarah Millican's Four Rooms
4.15pm Channel 4 News
4.30pm Back to the Future Part II

6.30pm Hollyoaks
7.00pm The Supervet at Christmas
8.00pm Supershoppers Sales Special
9.00pm Miranda Does Christmas
10.00pm First Dates at Christmas
11.00pm East is East
12.50am Very British Problems at Christmas
1.45am That's So Last Century
2.35am Britain's Favourite Superhero
4.00am Location, Location, Location
4.55am Four in a Bed
5.20am Kirstie's Handmade Christmas
5.40am Holiday Inn

Channel 5



8.25am Shimmer and Shine
8.50am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.10am Molly
9.15am Chasing with Jane McDonald
9.30am World's Strongest Man 2017
10.30am North Sea Hijack

12.25pm Operation Crossbow
2.00pm Operation Daybreak
4.55pm The Guns of Navarone

8.00pm World's Strongest Man 2017
9.00pm Meat Shielding
12.00am Blind Date
1.00am Super Casino
3.05am Love/Hate
4.00am Chasing with Jane McDonald
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Housebusters
5.35am Wildlife SOS

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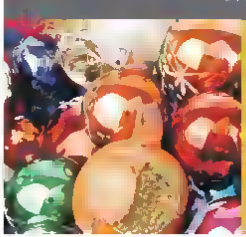

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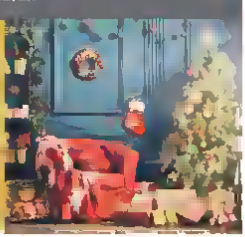

AutoWeekly
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Abarth 695 Biposto Record 1.4 T-jet 190hp

Fun to drive and with seasonal bells on

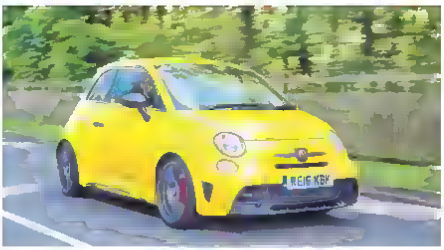
By **Tony Yates**

I HAVE owned an Abarth 595 for about two years now – and as it was starting to show its age a little I thought I would go out and buy the newer version because to be honest I really don't want to buy anything else when the little Abarth suits me just fine – also for the simple reason that it happens to be one of the best small cars money can buy

So when Fiat offered me a test in the Special Edition 695 Biposto Record – I thought 'oh god it's going to be a track focused car that's brilliant and nothing like my standard Abarth'.

Well I am happy to report it's just as much fun to drive as my standard Abarth, but the 695 has the bells on it

So, here is a quick rundown of what you can expect from a limited run of just 133 examples



You won't be disappointed if you decide to invest in an Abarth 695 – if you can get one

Power & efficiency

The little 695 is powered by a 1.4 T-Jet engine that has 190hp Top speed comes in around 143mph and a 0 62 time of 6 9sec Plus, a large amount of torque, 250Nm of it actually Of course, this being the 695 – means it is one step away from being a full blown race car – well almost!

You don't get a rear windscreen wiper or radio or air-conditioning, or rear seats Ok, it's a stripped back track-focused car I get that – but come on – I'm amazed they managed to find the time to fit in a passenger seat if I'm being totally honest.

Then again, that aside it's still totally epic in every way Fuel consumption – well that's the best and most pleasing part here On a combined cycle it returned around 45mpg I'm not joking either – the little Abarth just sips away saving you bundles of cash until you press the loud pedal really hard – then it all goes totally bonkers

On the road

I will keep it simple here, the 695 is the perfect car to scoot about in – because it is poised thanks to front and rear suspension with hydraulic adjustment and racing springs – all by Extreme Shox. Yes, the ride is like a rock – but how it pins itself to the road is just stunning – which is why you will always have a big smile on your face whenever you drive it.

Design & technology

So, being the stripped out version what do you actually get?

Exterior Modena Yellow Exterior colour with Anthracite trim and exclusive '695 Record Badge' front suspension with hydraulic height adjustment with racing engine springs by Extreme Shox, rear suspension with hydraulic adjustment with racing springs by Extreme Shox, four piston aluminium fixed brake calipers by Brembo mechanical slip differential, self ventilated oversized 305x28mm perforated front brake discs, 240x11 mm perforated rear brake discs high performance front brake pads Light ened 18" alloy wheels with 215/35 (18") tyres by O Z rear bumper with carbon fibre spoiler oversized roof spoiler, front intercooler with racing configu ration, oval trumpet airbox by BMC, dual-stage exhaust with twin titanium tailpipes by Akrapovic

Interior 695 Biposto Record badge with unique serial number leather and Alcantara sports seats with carbon shell by Sabelt, sporty aluminium pedal kit with titanium finish, 7" TFT colour display instrument panel with 695 Record logo animation, leather steering wheel, Internal rear titanium 3-bar roll-cage by Poggipolini, light-weight racing front and rear door panels

To sum up

If you remember the good old days of a proper Mini and want to rekindle the art of having fun while driving then pop down to your local Abarth dealer and order a 595. I promise you will not be disappointed – unless they are all sold out! Price from: £36 665

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2011 60 AUDI A1 1.4 TFSI S LINE 3D 122 BHP In Grey Petrol 3 Door 44k **£9,150**

2018 18 AUDI A4 1.8 TFSI SE 4D AUTO 158 BHP, In Silver Petrol 39 000 miles, 4 Door **£8,555**

2012 12 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D SPORT NAV 5D 173 BHP, Grey Diesel Anti lock Heated seats 120k **£8,150**

2011 11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM X TDCI 5D 113 BHP Diesel manual Air-con Bluetooth only 42,900 miles **£7,148**

2013 13 RENAULT CLIO 1.1 DYNAMIQUE MEDIANAV 5D 75 BHP, red, c/locking mirrors driver airbag, 53k **£5,650**

2014 14 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITIDH 3D 83 BHP, black, traction control, a/c, rear wash/wipe 41k **£5,595**

2007 57 MINI HATCH COOPER 1.6, 118 BHP, Silver Petrol Alloys, Keyless Start, ABS 3 Dr 63 300 miles **£3,540**

2011 11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC 5D 100 BHP, Black, heated screen e/w/mirrors radio/CD 65k **£3,250**

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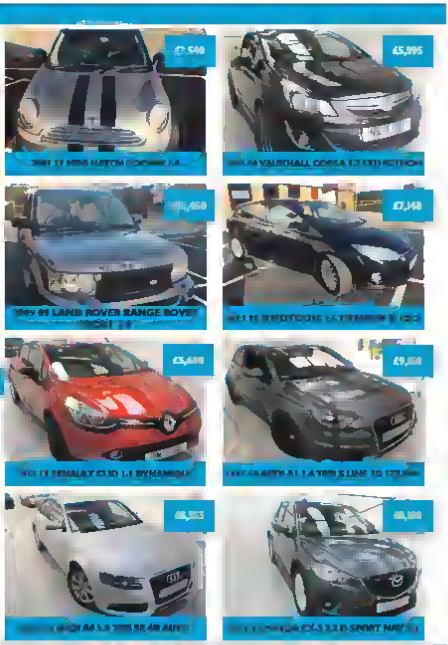

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62 REG CITROËN C1 1.0I VTR 5DR
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64 REG SEAT MII 1.0I I-TECH 3DR
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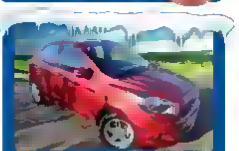

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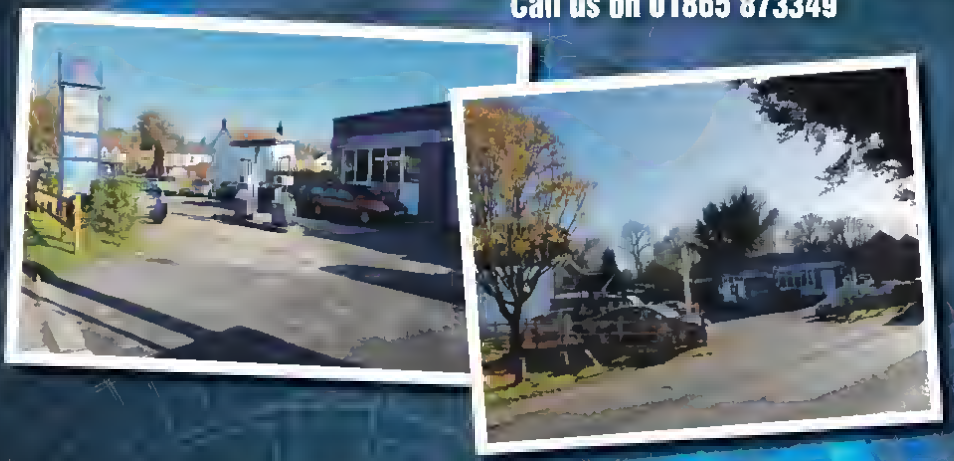

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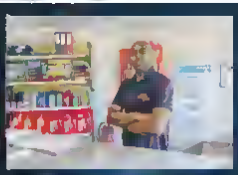

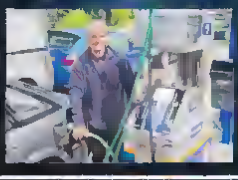

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2013-63	NISSAN QASHQAI +2 1.6 360 Black, 4 DR, PAS, AC, Alloys, SAT NAV 34037 Miles	£12,495
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2012-62	FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI ZETEC Silver 5 Dr RCL, PAS, EW AC, Alloys, 37673 Miles WAS £10,995 NOW £10,495	
2013-63	NISSAN LEAF 1.5 DCI N-TEC, Black, 5 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW AC, Alloys, Sat Nav, 10350 Miles	£9,995
2014-14	JEEP RENEGADE 1.4 D, White 4 Dr, RCL, PAS, EW AC, Alloys, ONLY 9500 Miles WAS £10,495 NOW £9,995	
2009-09	HONDA CR V 2.2 CTDI EX, Grey, 5 DR, RCL, PAS, EW AC, Alloys, Sat Nav, Leather Seats, 48160 Miles	£9,495
2011 11	AUDI A1 1.4 TFSI SPORT, White, 3 Dr RCL, PAS, EW AC, Alloys, 22800 Miles	£9,995
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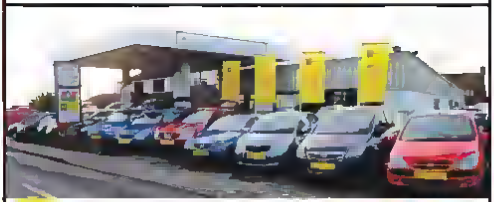

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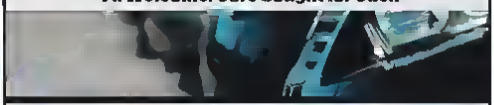

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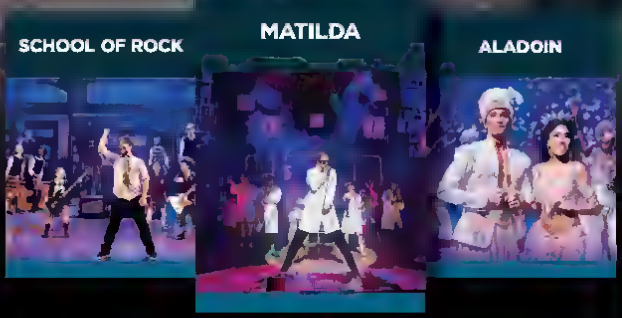

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Sport

Stars slaughter lame Lions

By George Welch

Ice hockey

INVINCIBLE Oxford City Stars continued to bulldoze their way through NIHL2 as they exhibited another domineering performance to punish Lee Valley Lions 18-1—the second time they have won by that scoreline this season.

Indeed, it was like an exhibition match for top-of-the-table Oxford who made it 11 wins on the spin with this latest thrashing, extending their lead at the top to seven points.

Kamil Kinkor was the shining star for City notching an incredible four goals and five assists.

There were also hat-tricks for Josh Florey and Josh Oliver while assist kings Florey, Stewart Tait and Conor Redmond made things happen with three assists each.

The Stars were utterly dominant, powering in 63 shots on goal compared to Lee Valley's 16.

Remarkably, however, it was the visiting London side who took an early lead through Simon Geldart on 5.49.

Picture: Paul Foster

But after that the Lions were tamed and the Stars shone brighter.

Kinkor quickly levelled the scores less than a minute later and further strikes from Andrew Cox (9 minutes), Dom Hopkins (13) and Oliver (15) gave the hosts a 4-1 lead at the end of period one.

Kenny Redmond's side were most rampant in the middle period, scoring an unprecedented 10 goals in less than 17 minutes.

Kinkor (21), Tait (22) and Florey (24) made it 7-1 on 24 minutes, putting them on track to beat their 18-1 win over Basingstoke Buffalo in October.

And a red hot streak of seven goals in six minutes lurched Oxford closer to beating that scoreline.

Florey (32 & 33), Dan Hedges (32 & 35), Oliver (34), Kinkor (37) and Redmond (38) made it 14-1, heading into the final period.

The Stars needed five goals in the third period to beat their record but – in the only disappointment of the night – could only match it.

Kinkor netted his 23rd goal of a prolific campaign straight after the restart and goals from Joe Edwards (45), Oliver (50) and Will Harrison (58) rounded off the resounding win.

Oxford travel to Bristol Pitbulls on Saturday in their last game of the calendar year before welcoming Bracknell Hornets to Oxpens Road on January 7.

Wheatley end year on a high

Rugby union

WHEATLEY saw out 2017 in style after comprehensively despatching Bletchley 29-5 in a one-sided BBO Premier fixture on Saturday.

Caillin Taylor wins a lineout
Picture *Simon Chadbone*

Sanda Mpanza and Joe Hobdell marshalled a disciplined defence that kept a clean sheet in the first-half, while the Wheats were lethal at the other end as Iain Downer, Joe Taylor, Aaron Laman and Alex Gabbidon all scored tries.

The win means Wheatley will end the year fifth in the Wadworth 6X BBO Premier on 30 points.

Elsewhere in the division, Abingdon continue their search for a first win since early October after a run of seven consecutive defeats culminating in a 48-7 loss to Littlemore which leaves them one place above the bottom.

In South West 1 East, Banbury overcame north Oxfordshire rivals Bicester 57-10 as they race ahead of Salisbury in the table ending the year in third on 56 points while Bicester languish in 13th just two points above bottom club Marlow on 15.

Grove lost 27-20 to Stratford Upon Avon and Oxford Harlequins posted a 43-28 win over Witney to National League South 2 Chinnor are flying high as their 71 point total means they will finish 2017 top of the table after thumping Canterbury 41-7.

Meanwhile, Henley notched up three wins in a row after returning from their trip to play London Irish Wild Geese as victors, winning 24-17.

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Wantage Town 0-0 Windsor

Last-gasp drama denies Puritans a point at home

Banbury United

UNLUCKY Banbury United narrowly lost 2-1 at home to third-placed Weymouth in a tight Evo-Stik Southern Premier league contest on Saturday.

The Puritans will consider themselves unlucky to have nothing to show for their efforts especially as they went so close to snatching an equaliser late on.

In the dying minutes Luke Carnell had a header saved and Stephane Zubar had to be alert to clear striker Leam Howards' rebounded effort off the line.

But it was Terras forward Harry Baker who had more luck in front of goal, netting a brace for the Dorset side at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium.

His first came on four minutes when he found the top corner although United were back on level terms on the cusp of half time thanks to an Abdulai Baggie own goal.

United improved in the second half but were frustrated by Mark Travers in the Weymouth goal who thwarted Banbury's best chance, a fierce Conor McOonagh drive.

The visitors were more clinical in front of goal and Baker was never going to miss when Ben Thomson squared for the forward to tap home the winner just before the hour.

Weymouth were comfortable until they had to deny Banbury in the dramatic finish.

Banbury (9th) are away at Biggleswade Town (14th) on Saturday.

■ Top scorer Jefferson Louis has moved on to pastures new after agreeing to join Chesham United. The 28-year-old made 27 appearances for United since signing at the start of the season and scored 17 goals. Chesham is his 36th club of a nomadic career which has also included spells at Oxford United, Oxford City and Thame United.

Freds fail to close gap after dismal goalless draw

Hellenic round-up

WANTAGE Town moved up to third in the table but missed the chance to close the gap at the top of the table following a drab 0-0 draw against Windsor.

Jack Powell and Ryan Jackson had the best chances for the Freds, but the home side couldn't find a winner and close in on Highworth Town who dropped rare points against Binfield.

The result ended a run of four consecutive wins for Ben Sadler's side who were without Nick Thorne and Mark Threlfall from the win against Brackley Town Saints the previous week.

Neither side did enough to score in a scrappy first 45 minutes.

Wantage's best chance came when Steve Robertson was unable to scramble the ball in from a corner.

For Windsor, Bradley Pearce headed over and Paul Coyne also struck off target, while 45-year-old former Premier League player Barry Hayles had little chance to make an impact up front.

The hosts had their first dominant spell of the game well into the second half, with Powell and Jackson both missing the target.

Powell had a better chance a little later but his cracking goal bound strike was kept out by a superb save from Windsor goalkeeper Hugo Sobie who hadn't been hugely tested beforehand.

After that though, in the closing stages of the match, Windsor looked the most likely to score.

Wantage did well to hold out for the point in the dying minutes although Windsor would probably have been more content with the draw.

There was no weekend league action for Abingdon United or Oxford City Nomads.

Additional reporting by Ozon Football

Railwaymen steam up to play-off spot

Evo Stik round-up

DIDCOT Town proved they mean business this season as they halted high flying Wimborne Town's unbeaten run with an impressive 1-0 win to close in on the play-offs.

Captain Adam Learoyd bagged the only goal of the game on nine minutes as the Railwaymen got back on track with the narrow victory stopping their host's seven match unbeaten streak.

Ninth placed Town are now level on points with Wimborne Town, who occupy the last Evo-Stik South West play-off berth.

Saturday's winner came when Learoyd headed home a George Reid corner.

Didcot looked lively and felt hard done by when Reid went down in the area.

Reid and Marlon Agyakwa threatened on both wings but neither could double the visitors tally at The Cuthbury.

The hosts tried to come back into the game as the half went on but were unable to test Leigh Bedwell in the Diddy goal.

They upped the pressure in the second half in search of an equaliser – Toby Holmes and Luke Burbidge both went close – but Didcot's defence held strong.

In the East division, Thame United moved to within three points of the play-offs with a 4-0 win at Kempston Rovers on Tuesday.

For the second week running several eighth-tier matches were impacted by the recent freezing weather.

North Leigh have had their last three matches postponed.

The following games were postponed on Saturday: Kidlington v Winchester, North Leigh v Swindon Supermarine and in the East division Kempston Rovers v Thame United.

Skipper Adam Learoyd grabbed Didcot's winner against Wimborne Town **Picture** *Roger Neal*

Ivo eyes up early return after promising recovery

By George Welch

INJURY-STRUCK Ivo Pekalski is back in England as the Oxford United midfield enters the next stage of his rehabilitation.

The midfielder ruptured cruciate ligaments in his left knee after landing awkwardly during training just days after signing from Swedish side Halmstad for an undisclosed fee in August.

The 27-year-old was in England for a few weeks after an operation but has spent the rest of the time back in his home country.

After making good progress the former Sweden international has returned to his club to complete his recovery – and the U's hope he will be back in action in February.

Frustrated by his time on the sidelines, Pekalski said: "When you come to a new club you always want to do your best to get out on the pitch and play so it was a disappointment [to get injured].

Ivo Pekalski is back in England Picture: *Steve Daniels*

"But that's football. I accept the situation, deal with it and do the best I can from it [sic]."

But the Swede hasn't been sat around doing nothing, having worked hard on recovery and training everyday. "If you don't do anything you won't get to where you want to get to. Since day one I've been prepared to do whatever I can to get back – and that's my ambition," he said.

"There are a lot of things to do which is why I'm not setting a date."

Pekalski won't be rushed back but the club is tentatively aiming for a February return to training for the midfield man.

It would take time to rebuild fitness but, should his recovery continue at its current pace, he would return a month ahead of schedule.

Pekalski admitted the injury was frustrating but that he had been keeping an eye on how United's season has been panning out without him.

He said: "I've been following every game and I think there's more [for the team] to build on.

"It's been pretty tough to get everything together [due to injuries] when you have a lot of ins and outs – but we're still in a good position."

James Roberts in Checkatrade Trophy action this season against Brighton & Hove Albion's academy side. Picture: Steve Daniels

More action for on-loan striker

OXFORD United striker James Roberts has joined National League side Guiseley on a month's loan.

The 21-year-old has made three appearances from the bench for the U's this season but manager Pep Clotet wants him to enjoy competitive first team action on a more regular basis.

The move to the West Yorkshire side sees Roberts team up with assistant manager Adam Murray a former United midfielder.

He is yet to make his debut for the club after their league match at Gateshead was postponed due to a frozen pitch on Saturday and Tuesday.

Roberts said in October he is determined to prove his worth to the team, despite not starting an Oxford game since the club were in League Two.

He made his senior debut for the U's at the age of 18 in 2014 but since then, his career has taken an undesired path.

The injury hit striker, who lost his 16-year old brother Ben in October 2015, said he has the determination to continue his comeback.

He said: "As long as you can be mentally strong, keep your head up and keep believing in yourself, there's no reason you can't take a bad stretch and turn it into a good stretch."

Roberts who scored two goals in 15 Oxford City appearances last season, burst onto the scene at the U's with a brace in his first start, a 3-1 FA Cup win over Grimsby in November 2014.

He went on to play 28 times and score five goals in all competitions that season but has struggled since for goals and game time.

Fingers crossed for young U's cup tie

OUFC Under-18s

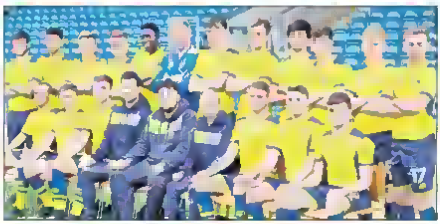
OXFORD United will try again in the FA Youth Cup third round this evening (Thursday) after last week's tie against Dagenham & Redbridge was called off due to snow on the pitch.

The game was originally scheduled for kick-off on December 13 but the Under-18's fixture had to be postponed when the pitch at Oxford City's Court Place Farm was deemed unsuitable when the snowfall earlier in the week had not yet cleared.

United had put together a run of good form in league and cup going undefeated in the EFL Youth Alliance Southwest Division from September until this earlier month.

Defeats to Exeter City bookended the undefeated streak that saw the U's score 21 goals and concede just five times over the seven fixtures.

Skipper James Cowan has led his team to hard fought victories in the last two games in the Youth Cup.



The young U's will line up against Dagenham & Redbridge on Thursday Picture: *OUFC*

The young U's needed extra time to progress from the first round against Gloucester.

A late goal from Albie Hopkins overturned a 1-0 half time deficit, before Owen James spun on the edge of the box in extra time and drove a left footed effort into the back of the net to see the U's through.

An emphatic performance in the second round to despatch Bristol Rovers 3-1 was enough to set up the clash with the Daggers.

The youth side will vie with Dagenham & Redbridge tonight (Thursday) for a shot at playing Ipswich Town in the next round.

City swap pitches for snow as weather hits

OXFORD City may be languishing in 19th on 21 points in the National League South, but the club were walking in the air last week as the Hoops got into the festive spirit.

A bout of heavy snowfall left Marsh Lane blanketed in white forcing the club to close for three days and training to be called off for safety reasons.

But it didn't stop the Hoops from enjoying the seasonal weather as City tweeted pictures of snowmen sporting the club's colours.

City will be hoping they can open one of their Christmas presents early when they take on Hampton & Richmond Borough in the league on Saturday.

Hoops fans embraced the snow to send the club pictures of their Oxford City Snowmen. Picture: *Oxford City FC*

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Wigan Athletic	21	30	48
2	Shrewsbury Town	21	14	44
3	Blackburn Rovers	21	20	43
4	Bradford City	22	9	42
5	Scunthorpe United	22	11	39
6	Charlton Athletic	21	3	35
7	Portsmouth	22	3	35
8	Peterborough United	22	2	32
9	Oxford United	22	5	31
10	Rotherham United	22	4	30
11	Walsall	21	-1	28
12	Southend United	22	-9	26
13	Blackpool	22	-3	27
14	Oldham Athletic	22	4	27
15	Fleetwood Town	22	-4	27
16	Bristol Rovers	22	7	27
17	MK Dons	22	-7	26
18	Doncaster Rovers	22	-5	24
19	Gillingham	22	5	23
20	Northampton Town	22	20	22
21	Rochdale	21	-5	21
22	Plymouth Argyle	22	-13	21
23	AFC Wimbledon	21	11	20
24	Bury Town	21	19	17

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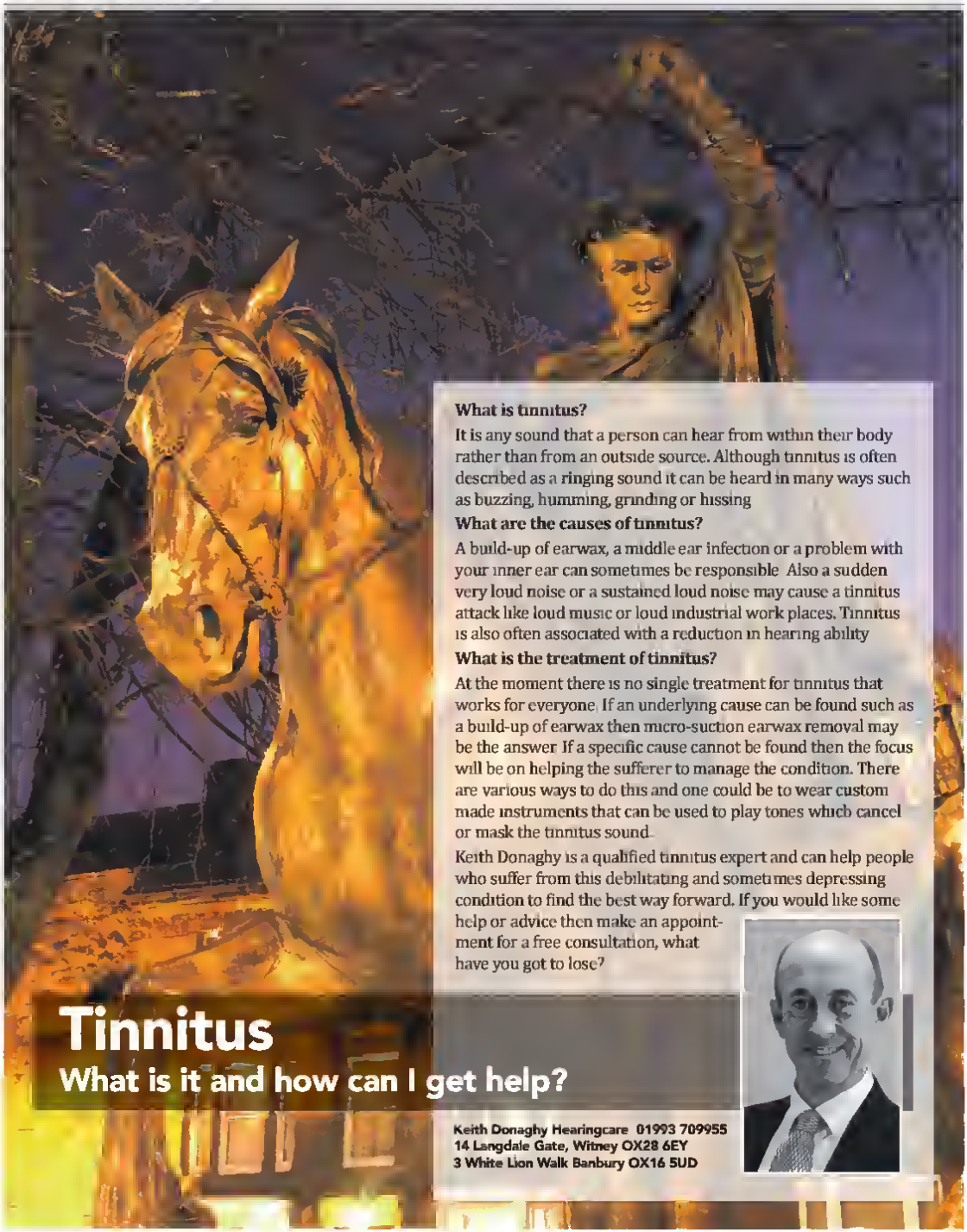

Tinnitus

What is it and how can I get help?

What is tinnitus?

It is any sound that a person can hear from within their body rather than from an outside source. Although tinnitus is often described as a ringing sound it can be heard in many ways such as buzzing, humming, grinding or hissing

What are the causes of tinnitus?

A build-up of earwax, a middle ear infection or a problem with your inner ear can sometimes be responsible. Also a sudden very loud noise or a sustained loud noise may cause a tinnitus attack like loud music or loud industrial work places. Tinnitus is also often associated with a reduction in hearing ability

What is the treatment of tinnitus?

At the moment there is no single treatment for tinnitus that works for everyone. If an underlying cause can be found such as a build-up of earwax then micro-suction earwax removal may be the answer. If a specific cause cannot be found then the focus will be on helping the sufferer to manage the condition. There are various ways to do this and one could be to wear custom made instruments that can be used to play tones which cancel or mask the tinnitus sound.

Keith Donaghy is a qualified tinnitus expert and can help people who suffer from this debilitating and sometimes depressing condition to find the best way forward. If you would like some help or advice then make an appointment for a free consultation, what have you got to lose?

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